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BILL IN ASSEMBLY

Opposition seeks talks on Assam UCC move

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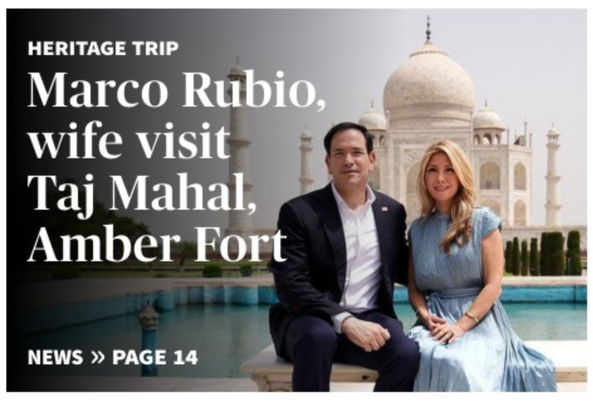

HERITAGE TRIP

Marco Rubio, wife visit Taj Mahal, Amber Fort

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300 Gulmarg tourists rescued from cable car

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STATE OF PLAY

A definite end to the Silverline

The high-speed railway project in Kerala that was on the wrong track

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ALL SET FOR Q1

RCB and GT look for direct berth to final

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Pull your socks up, Nabin tells State BJP leaders

BENGALURU
BJP national president Nitin Nabin has put the State unit of the party into an introspective mode through his stern message that it needs to pull its socks up if it hopes to return to power in the State.

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Tata Power seeks distribution licence in State

BENGALURU
Tata Power Company Limited has approached the KERC seeking a power distribution licence for areas currently served by Bescom, CESC and the electricity supply companies in Hubballi, Mangaluru and Kalaburagi.

» PAGE 7

SC blames NTA for repeated NEET question paper leaks

Two-judge Bench issues notice to the Union Ministry of Education, NTA, and others on pleas to 'replace or fundamentally restructure' the exam body and make it answerable to Parliament

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday squarely blamed the National Testing Agency (NTA) for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), 2026, paper leak, saying the exam body sadly had not learnt its lesson even two years after the previous security breach in 2024.

The hard work of 23 lakh students came to nothing with the cancellation of the examination after it was learnt that the question paper had been leaked.

A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe is under way into the issue and a retest is scheduled on June 21.

"It is so sad, really, that the NTA has not learnt its lesson. We had with such difficulty heard the petitions in 2024 and passed orders... We had directed the constitution of a committee to give recommendations... Those recommendations, we believe, were accepted... a monitoring/high-powered committee was appointed," Justice P.S. Narasimha, heading a two-judge Bench, observed on Monday while hearing a petition filed by the Federation of All India Medical Association to "replace or fundamentally restructure" the NTA.

> It is so sad, really, that the NTA has not learnt its lesson. We had with such difficulty heard the petitions in 2024 and passed orders... We had directed the constitution of a committee to give recommendations... Those recommendations, we believe, were accepted
>
> **JUSTICE P.S. NARASIMHA**
> Supreme Court judge

Affidavit sought

The Bench directed the NTA to file an affidavit in the next three days on measures taken by it implement the recommendations of the monitoring/high-powered committee and listed the case for hearing on an urgent basis later this week.

The top court also issued notices to the Union of India, the Union Ministry of Education, and other respondents arraigned by the petitioners.

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Pradhan seeks report on CBSE marking glitches

NEW DELHI
Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan has sought a detailed report on the glitches in the CBSE portal after multiple complaints about the new On Screen Marking system. » PAGE 16

Fuel prices increase ₹7.5 in 10 days after fourth hike

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

In the fourth hike in ten days, prices of petrol and diesel were increased by ₹2.7 to ₹2.8 per litre across the country and for all variants on Monday. With the latest increase, retail fuel prices in the country are up by about ₹7.5 per litre since May 15.

The price of petrol in Delhi breached the ₹100-mark – a level last scaled in May 2022 in the early days of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Petrol in Delhi became expensive by ₹2.61 a litre on Monday, being sold at ₹102.12, while Price of diesel increased ₹2.71 per litre to ₹95.20.

Briefing reporters about the situation in West Asia, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Union Petroleum Ministry, said India's oil-marketing companies (OMCs) incurred losses of "slightly less than ₹600 crore per day" from the sale of LPG, petrol, and diesel combined following the latest hike.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had informed that the Centre is estimated to take a revenue hit of more than ₹1 lakh crore in 2026 having reduced the Central excise duty on fuels by ₹10 per litre late-March to control retail prices.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Fuel on fire

After nearly three months of stable fuel prices following the Iran war, Monday's hike came after a ₹3-per-litre increase on May 15 and two subsequent hikes of 90 paise each

B'luru	Petrol	Diesel
May 15	₹106.17	₹94.10
May 19	₹107.14	₹95.04
May 23	₹108.09	₹95.99
May 25	**₹110.93**	**₹98.80**

Big impact: A motorist refuelling at a fuel station in Delhi on Monday as petrol prices pushed past the ₹100 mark in the capital city for the first time in four years. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

'Daily robbery': Opposition after fresh price hikes

NEW DELHI
As petrol and diesel prices were raised for the fourth time in ten days, the Opposition leaders stepped up their attack on the Union government, accusing it of burdening consumers. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge described the increase as "daily robbery".

» PAGE 15

Political action shifts to Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Finally, the Congress high command has summoned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar to New Delhi for a discussion on Tuesday.

Whether the meeting will focus on the leadership dispute between the two, which has fed intense speculation in Karnataka for over six months now, or whether it will focus on the Cabinet reshuffle remains to be seen.

Leave for Delhi

The two leaders left for Delhi late on Monday evening, even as many of their Cabinet colleagues and MLAs also followed suit, literally shifting the focus of the entire political drama to the national capital.

Even so, the party's general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala insisted that the meeting was to only discuss the impending elections to the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Council.

A senior legislator said that it was a "crucial time" for the party to take decisions on various issues the party is beseiged by, since the next Assembly election is less than two years away. He hoped that the meeting would end all speculations and focus could move on to governance.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 10

Nation's honour

BJP MP Hema Malini receives the Padma Vibhushan, conferred posthumously on her late husband and legendary actor Dharmendra, on his behalf from President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday. PTI (REPORT ON PAGE 15)

3 AIADMK MLAs quit, join TVK; Opposition calls it 'horse-trading'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Three AIADMK rebel legislators, who had voted in favour of the C. Joseph Vijay-led government in Tamil Nadu during the recent trust vote, resigned from the Assembly on Monday and joined the ruling TVK, barely 21 days after they were elected.

This not only came as a setback to the AIADMK – which faced a post-poll rebellion from a group of 25 owing allegiance to regional strongmen S. P. Velumani, C. Ve Shanmugam and C. Vijayabaskar – but also triggered allegations from the Opposition of "horse-trading" by the ruling party, which is short of a majority in the House.

The MLAs – Maragatham Kumaravel (Madurantakam), S. Jayakumar (Perundurai), and P. Sathyabama (Dharapuram) – were among 25 of the 47 legislators of the AIADMK who revolted against party general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami a fortnight ago.

After submitting their resignation letters to Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar at his chamber in the Secretariat in the afternoon, the three met Public Works Minister Aadhav Arjuna at his office and presented him with shawls. They joined the TVK in the evening and justified their decision saying they could not accept Mr. Palaniswami's alleged plan to form a government with the support of the rival DMK.

"Since the letters they submitted are in the prescribed format, their resignations have been accepted. All three came in person and presented handwritten letters. When members submit resignation letters, they do not need to state a reason. It is sufficient if they contain the statement that they are resigning from the post effective today. The Election Commission would be notified of the vacancy," the Speaker said.

On the petition submitted by the Palaniswami faction seeking disqualification of those who voted in favour of the government during the trust motion, the Speaker reiterated that it was under consideration. With the three resignations, the strength of the AIADMK (inclusive of the two factions) has come down to 44 from 47.

Five rebel MLAs – S.M. Sukumar (Arcot), P. Hari Bhaskar (Anthiyur), K. Mohan (Panruti), Dileepan Jaishankar (Sankarankovil), and N.S.N. Nataraj (Kangeyam) – have decided to back Mr. Palaniswami.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Quick exit

The three MLAs who resigned on Monday were among the 25 of the 47 AIADMK legislators who revolted against the party

S. Jayakumar
Perundurai

P. Sathyabhama
Dharapuram

Maragatham Kumaravel
Madurantakam

HC acquits first accused in Kerala lynching case, enhances punishment for 12 others

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday acquitted Hussain of Pakkulam, Palakkad – the first accused in the lynching of Madhu, a mentally challenged tribal youth, in 2018, finding evidence against him unreliable.

The court, however, rejected the appeals filed by 12 other accused and awarded them life imprisonment, apart from ₹2 lakh fine each. They had earlier been awarded seven years of imprisonment.

The court was hearing appeals filed by the accused seeking acquittal, and also by the State government and Madhu's mother, Malli, who sought enhanced punishment for the accused.

A file photo of Madhu's mother Malli, left, and sister Sarasu on the premises of a special court in Palakkad in 2023. K.K. MUSTAFAH

Defending the verdict, prosecution counsel Jeevesh said the acquittal was due to hostile witnesses and weak identification evidence against the prime accused. He added that electronic evidence played a decisive role.

Madhu, hailing from the tribal settlement in Attappady, was killed after an allegation that he had stolen rice from a grocery shop on February 22, 2018. A special court in Mannarkkad for trial of cases of atrocities against members of SC/ST communities had convicted 14 of the 16 accused in the case in April 2023.

The High Court on Monday observed that this was the first case of mob lynching to come before the courts of Kerala.

Importantly, it said, this was also a case in which the prosecution had been doomed to fail, not because the truth was unavailable, but because a large section of the community that had witnessed the incident collectively had chosen to look the other way.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Gulf countries must have ties with Israel to end Iran war: Trump

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said Saudi Arabia and other Muslim-majority nations from West Asia and beyond must normalise ties with Israel as part of efforts to reach a deal with Iran, adding fresh uncertainty into protracted peace negotiations.

Progress over a deal to end the conflict that broke out in late February has slowed with both sides talking down the prospect of an imminent agreement.

In another hurdle for any deal, the U.S. leader said it should be mandatory for Qatar, Pakistan, Egypt, Turkiye, and Jordan to sign up to the Abraham Accords, a set of agreements brokered in 2020 with nations historically hostile to Israel.

"After all the work done by the U.S. to try and pull this very complex puzzle together, it should be mandatory that all of these countries, at a minimum, sign onto the Abraham Accords," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post, listing countries whose leaders he spoke with on Saturday about efforts to end the war with Iran.

DEAL NOT YET CLOSE: IRAN » PAGE 18

Sensational slide, rampaging comeback and nail-biting finish

The good news – for everyone else except the bowling fraternity – is that more of Sooryavanshi is in store. He showed that he wasn't an otherworldly being thrust upon us with a six-ball four against MI on Sunday, but that means he will be even more charged up against Sunrisers in New Chandigarh on Wednesday

Hit and miss: Sooryavanshi has lit up the tournament with his swashbuckling strokeplay while Miller and Delhi were left to rue the South African's 'brain-fade' moment against Gujarat. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

R.V. MOORTHY

In the race to the IPL 2026 playoffs, Punjab were duly punished after suffering six successive losses while Kolkata kept themselves alive until the last day; those who did not make the top-four cut will look back at missed opportunities

R. Kaushik

And then there were four. It wasn't until the 69th, and penultimate, match of the 10-team league phase that the final qualifier for the IPL 2026 playoffs was identified. Sunrisers Hyderabad's 55-run defeat of defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Friday had cemented the top three; the holders and table-toppers would take on Gujarat Titans, the 2022 champions, in Qualifier 1. Hyderabad, who like the top two also ended up with 18 points, had earned their place in the Eliminator, waiting to see who their opponents were.

When Shreyas Iyer blasted his maiden century against Lucknow Super Giants on Saturday to arrest an alarming slide of six straight losses and keep Punjab Kings in the hunt, the wait for the fourth qualifier spilled over to the final day of league action, in keeping with the IPL's reputation and history. In the end, after a start-stop-start season, Rajasthan Royals, champions in the inaugural edition in 2008, earned that right following a 30-run conquest of Mumbai Indians under a blazing afternoon sun at the Wankhede Stadium.

As is inevitably the case, those that missed out on qualification narrowly - Punjab finished on 15 points, Delhi Capitals on 14 while 16 was the magic figure on which Rajasthan rode into the last four - will rue missed opportunities, a game that slid by here, a point that was dropped there. Kings will potentially point to the only no-result of the tournament, against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens, as a decisive moment.

Struggling at the time to get on the points table, Ajinkya Rahane's men, strangely opting to bat despite the threat of rain, were gasping at 25 for two when the skies opened up, gifting them a much-needed first point. Who's to say how the match would have panned out had PBKS, riding the crest of an early wave, had the opportunity to play out a full game?

Kings will look back and understandably wonder how it came to this pass. For the first half, and more, of the league phase, they looked unstoppable and unbeatable. The no-result in Kolkata was the only point they dropped in their first seven outings; with 13 points and seven games remaining, it wasn't a question of whether they would make the playoffs, but what their final points tally would be and who they might run into in Qualifier 1.

Inexorable tailspin

Then, remarkably, without warning, Punjab embarked on an inexorable tailspin, the celebrated leadership group of Shreyas and head coach Ricky Ponting powerless to arrest the slide.

The same personnel that fuelled their first-half charge started to repeatedly fluff their lines, their death bowling went to pieces and their catching and ground fielding was abysmal. The last development would have particularly incensed Ponting, for two reasons - one, he was among the best fielders of his generation and two, misfields and dropped catches are unforgivable unforced errors.

PBKS have plenty of time - nearly 10 months - to rue their self-inflicted misfortune and reflect on how they managed to embrace elimination when advancing to the next stage was infinitely the simpler and more inviting proposition. Shreyas had a great run with the bat and was tactically astute for the most part - at one point, there were calls for his elevation to T20I captaincy at the expense of the misfiring Suryakumar Yadav, though those calls have disappeared now - but the end result is something he will struggle to reconcile with.

Five-time champions Mumbai Indians were the biggest disappointment, reiterating that big names and celebrity superstars don't guarantee success. Lucknow Super Giants weren't much better

Delhi fell tantalisingly short numerous times in closing out games, not least against Gujarat when they needed two runs off as many deliveries with David Miller and Kuldeep Yadav in the middle. For reasons best known to him, the South African turned down the scores-tying single off the penultimate ball from Prasidh Krishna, backing himself to get the job done.

It was a massive error in judgement and DC paid a heavy immediate and eventual price. Kuldeep was run out off the last ball looking for the bye that would have sent the game into a Super Over as Gujarat pulled off a one-run heist. From then on, one of only two from the original eight – apart from Punjab – to have not won the title even once blew hot and cold, struggling for consistency and crashing out despite bringing the curtain down on the league phase with a comprehensive victory over Kolkata on Sunday.

So much for the two that narrowly missed out. KKR and Chennai Super Kings recovered from early setbacks to stay in touch with the qualification race, though they were always chasing their tails and playing catch-up. The same couldn't be said of the two cellar teams, Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants, both of whom managed a frugal four wins each from 14 outings. Five-time champions Mumbai were the biggest disappointment, reiterating that big names and celebrity superstars don't guarantee success.

Lucknow are now licking their wounds and already contemplating changes, including to their leadership after ₹27 crore-signing Rishabh Pant had another modest season with the bat and has now led the side to just 10 wins from 28 outings across two campaigns.

Left-handed batters (mainly openers) and fast bowlers stole the individual honours, none more so than the youngest player in the history of the competition. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi rang in his 15th birthday just a day before IPL 2026 got underway on March 28. He celebrated that milestone in extraordinary fashion, sending chills down the spine of some of the most illustrious bowlers of the modern era. He instilled fear and uncertainty, he mesmerised and entertained with an array of strokes that screamed out intrepidness and great class. He spared no one - not Josh Hazlewood or Jasprit Bumrah, not Kagiso Rabada or Mitchell Starc. When was the last time you watched a match just for one player? And that too for a 15-year-old?

The good news – for everyone else except the bowling fraternity – is that more of Sooryavanshi is in store. He showed that he wasn't an otherworldly being thrust upon us with a six-ball four against MI on Sunday, but that means he will be even more charged up against Sunrisers in New Chandigarh on Wednesday.

Already this season, he has had two interesting run-ins with the 2016 winners. In Hyderabad a month and a half ago, he perished first ball, caught on the pull off debutant pacer Praful Hinge. Retribution was swift, and just 12 days in coming. In the return fixture in Jaipur, he brought up the third fastest IPL century, off 36 deliveries (he holds the record for the second fastest too, let's not forget), treating Praful with disdain and battering Sakib Hussain, who had also taken four wickets on his debut alongside his pace partner.

Hyderabad won both those games, by 57 runs and five wickets, but captain Pat Cummins and head coach Daniel Vettori will read nothing into those results as they head into the first actual knockout game of the competition. They know there's more to RR than Sooryavanshi - yes, though it's easy to lose track of that sometimes - but much of their focus will be concentrated on halting the boy wonder because, well, he is the boy wonder.

Topping the charts

Sooryavanshi finished the league stage as the fifth highest scorer, with 583 runs, behind only Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill, Heinrich Klaasen and K.L. Rahul. Among those with more than 400 runs, he is one of only two batters with a strike rate of more than 200; his 232.27 is comfortably better than Abhishek Sharma's 206.22 and these two left-handers also have the most sixes where, again, Sooryavanshi is clearly streets ahead, with 53 'maximums' to the Hyderabad opener's 43. Wednesday will therefore witness a battle within a battle, with the winner living to fight another night and vanquished taking an early flight home.

The two leading scorers of the competition are Gujarat's Sai Sudharsan and Gill, with 638 and 616 runs respectively. But interestingly, as if to reinforce the belief that batters win matches while bowlers win tournaments, the GT bowing unit has accounted for more than 100 wickets, making them the only franchise to top that milestone this edition. Their charge has been led by the excellent Kagiso Rabada and the terrific Afghan leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who has purged a lean last couple of years with 19 wickets to go with an economy of 8.71. Rabada's 24 wickets are the joint highest alongside Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the ageless wonder from RCB who holds the Purple Cap owing to a superior economy rate of 8.07 compared to his South African counterpart's 9.18.

Rabada and Mohammed Siraj, who has picked up 17 wickets, are in a personal battle for the most dot balls bowled in the competition. Between them, the Rabada-Rashid-Siraj trio has 60 wickets which, allied with Prasidh's 14 and Jason Holder's 13, paint the picture of a wicket-hungry group that has backed up the heroics of their openers and the explosive No. 3, Jos Buttler.

Maximising their depth

RCB have just one bowler in the top 12 wicket-takers and one batter - Virat Kohli, at ninth, with 557 runs – in the top 15 run-makers, but clearly, they have maximised their depth in both departments, which explains their status as the table-toppers.

They were forced to split the opening combine of Kohli and Phil Salt after the latter picked up a finger injury, and Salt's replacement, Jacob Bethell, has flown back home, also with a finger injury. In their absence, Venkatesh Iyer has stepped up nicely, while at No. 3, Devdutt Padikkal has been wonderful to watch with his rangy ball-striking and a rejigged mindset that's allowed him to score at 171.82.

Rajat Patidar, who ended a long wait by leading the team to their first trophy last season, has scored 393 runs at a strike-rate of 183.64 while Tim David is a dangerously fierce middle-order presence. This is the fulcrum around which the batting has revolved, while the bowling has been shored up, in Bhuvneshwar's wake, by Rasikh Salam and the crafty Krunal Pandya, though Hazlewood has blown hot and cold.

All to play for as we head to the final week then. Bengaluru and Gujarat will have two bites at the cherry by finishing 1-2, while Hyderabad and Rajasthan are at the point of no return. It's taken nearly two months to reach this stage; now, it's all about the next six nights.

THE GIST

- Punjab will wonder how they were eliminated. For the first half, and more, of the league phase, they looked unstoppable and unbeatable
- Kolkata and Chennai recovered from early setbacks to stay in touch with the qualification race, though they were always playing catch-up. The same couldn't be said about Mumbai and Lucknow
- In the playoffs, Bengaluru and Gujarat will have two bites at the cherry after finishing 1-2, while Hyderabad and Rajasthan are at the point of no return

Petrol price crosses ₹110 per litre in city, fourth hike in 10 days

The KSTOA says the continuous rise in prices is affecting goods transport, cabs, buses, and agriculture, with a cascading effect on commodity prices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Petrol prices in Bengaluru rose to ₹110.93 per litre from ₹108.09 (May 24), while diesel climbed to ₹98.80 per litre from ₹95.99. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Fuel prices in Bengaluru saw a sharp increase on Monday, prompting transport associations to urge the Government of Karnataka to intervene and ease the burden on the sector.

Petrol and diesel prices have been hiked for the fourth time in 10 days, with the latest revision adding ₹2.7 to ₹2.8 per litre across all variants. Petrol prices in Bengaluru rose to ₹110.93 per litre from ₹108.09 (May 24), while diesel climbed to ₹98.80 per litre from ₹95.99.

The consecutive hikes over the past 10 days have significantly impacted both the transport sector and the general public, increasing operational costs and pushing up prices of essential goods.

The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association (KSTOA) said the continuous rise in fuel prices is affecting goods transport, cabs, buses, and even agriculture, with a cascading effect on commodity prices. Association president Radhakrishna Holla urged the government to take corrective steps. "The State government must reconsider the taxes imposed on fuel. At the same time, unnecessary government expenditure should be reduced to ease the financial burden on the public," he told *The Hindu*. The KSTOA warned that if the trend continues, it could lead to increased fares and further strain on commuters.

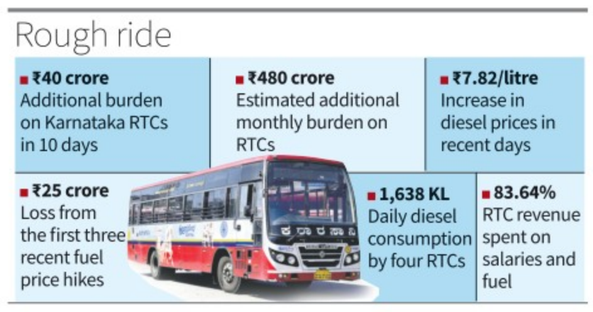
Cost of living

Meanwhile, residents and commuters in Bengaluru expressed growing frustration and concern over the increase in fuel prices across categories, warning that the repeated hikes could further escalate transportation expenses and the overall cost of living.

Praveen Kumar, a resident of Jayanagar, said that the continuous rise in fuel prices was unfair at a time when households were already struggling with inflation and rising grocery costs. "It has become extremely difficult for middle-class families to manage daily expenses. Fuel prices are increasing almost every day, but there is no clear response or explanation from the Centre on why these hikes are happening. People are already burdened by the rising prices of vegetables, groceries, power tariffs, and other essential commodities. Now, with petrol and diesel prices going up again, transportation costs will also rise, which will eventually affect the prices of almost every product in the market. The government should take immediate steps to control fuel prices and provide relief to the public," he said.

Fuel price hike adds ₹40 cr. burden on RTCs in 10 days

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU



The recent sharp increase in diesel prices has imposed an additional burden of nearly ₹40 crore on Karnataka's four State-run Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) within just 10 days, State Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Reddy said that the continuous rise in fuel prices was worsening the financial health of the four RTCs in the State.

"In the last few days, diesel prices have increased by ₹7.82 per litre. Due to the first three hikes alone, the four RTCs have already incurred an additional expenditure of around ₹25 crore. Since fuel prices have again been increased on Monday, the losses will further increase in the coming days," he said.

He further said that the overall additional burden on the RTCs over the past 10 days, till Monday, after the increase in fuel prices had reached nearly ₹40 crore.

"If fuel prices continue to rise in the coming days, the burden on the transport corporations will become even more severe. On a monthly basis, the additional burden could touch around ₹480 crore," Mr. Reddy added.

No hike in fares

Despite the mounting losses, the Minister clarified that there was currently no proposal before the government to increase bus fares.

"There will be no bus fare hike as of now. Normally, the respective RTC takes a decision and sends a proposal to the board seeking approval for a fare revision. So far, no RTC has submitted any such proposal," he said.

Petrol and diesel prices were hiked for the fourth time in 10 days on Monday, with fuel rates increasing by around ₹2.7 to ₹2.8 per litre across variants. In Bengaluru, petrol prices rose to ₹110.93 per litre from ₹108.09 (May 24), while diesel prices increased to ₹98.80 from ₹95.99 per litre.

According to senior transport department officials, fuel and employee expenses already account for a major share of RTC expenditure.

"At present, 83.64% of the RTCs' revenue is spent on crew salaries and diesel expenses. With diesel prices increasing continuously, the share of fuel expenditure in the overall revenue will rise further and put additional pressure on the corporations' finances," an official said.

Major concern

Officials added that the four RTCs together consume around 1,638 kilolitres of diesel every day, making fuel price fluctuations a major concern for the public transport sector in the State.

Congress leaders slam petrol, diesel price hike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy D.K. Shivakumar, and AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, addressing a joint media conference at the KPCC office on Queen's Road on Monday

As the BJP-led Union government effected the fourth hike in prices of petrol and diesel in less than two weeks, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was among the Congress leaders criticising the decision on Monday. Congress is likely to stage protests across the State against the rise in petrol and diesel prices.

After the fourth round of increase, the price of petrol and diesel in Bengaluru stands at ₹110.93 and ₹98.89, respectively. The total increase comes up to ₹7.52 on petrol and diesel.

Accusing the Union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "looting" the people since assuming power, Mr. Siddaramaiah told pressperson, "Never in the history of the country have prices of petroleum products increased like this. Lives of the middle class and the common man have become difficult, and people are struggling due to the price rise."

He said that the consumer did not benefit when the price of crude in international market was lower.

Guarantee schemes

Accusing the Centre of imposing a financial burden on the people, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said, "The Congress government, through guarantee schemes, is reducing the financial burden. Imagine what would happen if there were no guarantee schemes. The Centre is collecting a cess of about ₹1,000 crores daily from petroleum products."

He slammed BJP leaders, R. Ashok, Leader of Opposition, and BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, as "shameless" for asking the State, instead of the Centre, to reduce taxes on fuel. He said that a protest will be staged in every Assembly constituency.

Congress General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala said that the Centre was now dipping into the RBI's emergency reserve fund, and has taken ₹2.87 lakh crore. In the last 12 years, the Narendra Modi-led government has taken ₹14 lakh crore from the RBI, he added.

He called the manner in which taxes have been collected on petrol and diesel in the last 12 years "organised robbery".

BIAL hands over ₹16.49 cr. dividend to State govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah receiving a cheque for ₹16.50 crore from BIAL chairman Hari Marar in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) on Monday handed over a dividend of ₹16.49 crore for the financial year 2025-26 to the Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIIDC), which holds a 13% equity stake in the company.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah received the cheque from BIAL chairman Hari Marar.

Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil said BIAL has declared a dividend of ₹3 per share for the financial year 2025-26.

Accordingly, KSIIDC has received a total dividend of ₹16.49 crore. After deduction of taxes, the corporation has received a net dividend of ₹14.84 crore, he added.

He said the dividend declaration reflects BIAL's strong financial performance. KSIIDC represents the State government in the company. BIAL has declared a dividend for the first time since 2017-18.

In the intervening years, the company had reinvested its profits in major projects such as infrastructure development and capacity expansion to strengthen operations at Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru, he explained.

Mr. Patil further stated that the Airports Authority of India holds a 13% stake in BIAL, while FIH Mauritius Investments Limited and Anchorage Infrastructure Investments Holdings Limited hold 30.36% and 43.64% stakes, respectively.

592 drunk driving cases booked during special week-long crackdown

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Traffic police officials say the special drive was aimed at curbing reckless driving, preventing accidents and improving overall road safety in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The Bengaluru Traffic Police registered 592 drunk driving cases during a special enforcement drive conducted across the city between May 18 and 24.

The week-long operation was carried out by personnel attached to all 53 traffic police stations as part of a citywide crackdown on drunken driving and over-speeding.

According to official data released by the traffic police, 37,829 vehicles of various categories were checked during the special drive against drunk driving. The police booked 592 motorists for driving under the influence of alcohol.

In a parallel enforcement drive against overspeeding, the police registered 148 cases and collected fines amounting to ₹1.49 lakh from violators.

Traffic police officials said the special drive was aimed at curbing reckless driving, preventing accidents and improving overall road safety in Bengaluru.

Authorities added that similar enforcement operations will continue in the coming weeks.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAY. 26	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:41
RISE	14:41 SET 02:10
WEDNESDAY, MAY. 27	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:41
RISE	15:29 SET 02:46
THURSDAY, MAY. 28	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:41
RISE	16:17 SET 03:23

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	31	21
Bengaluru	32	29

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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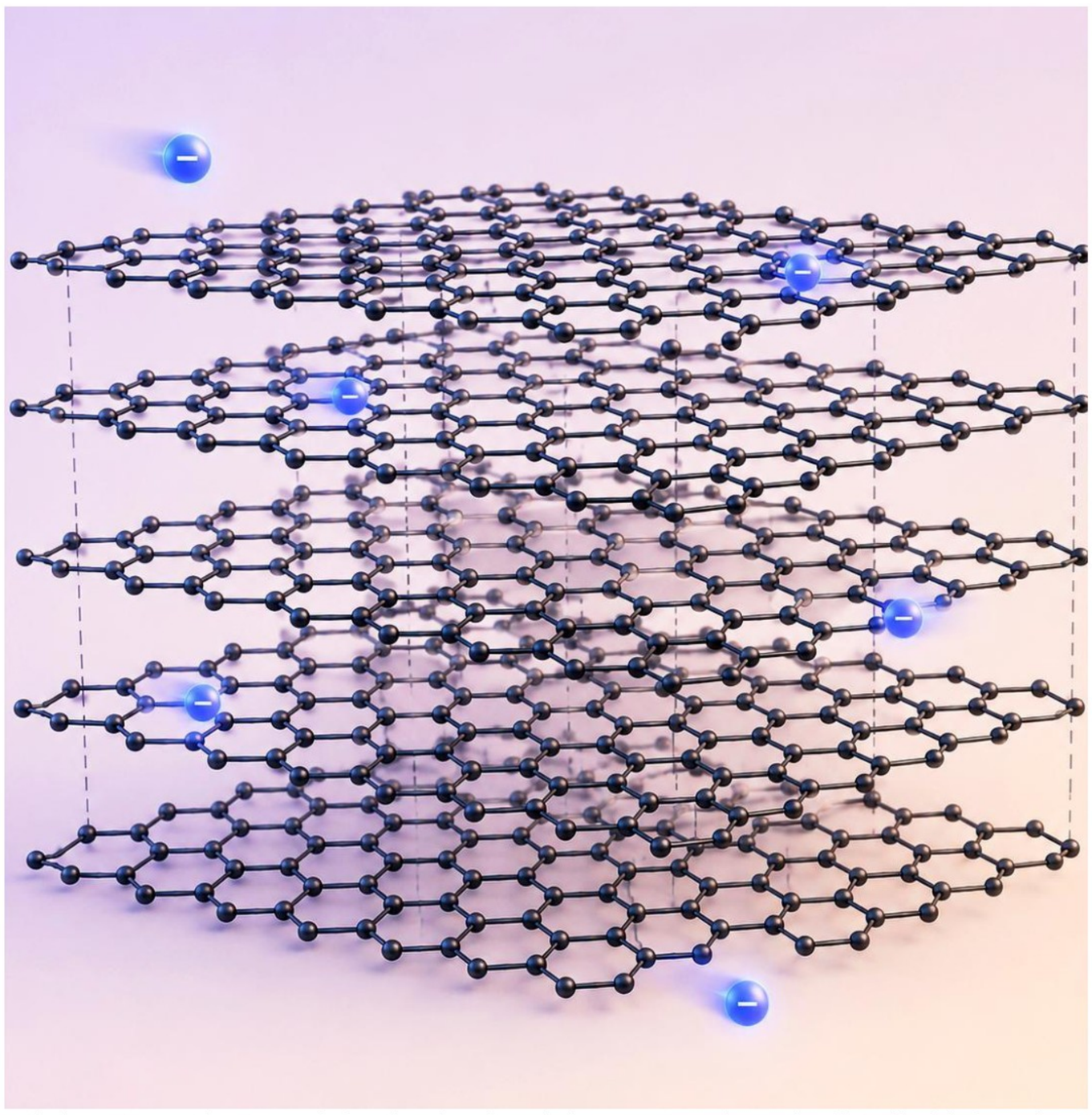
Physicists are finding new ways to make electrons act strangely

Science advances when scientists recreate what they find in nature in new conditions; that is how we got air travel, lasers, nuclear power, antibiotics, and semiconductors; something similar maybe happening with quantum materials — materials whose properties arise from quantum physics effects

Vasudevan Mukunth



Usually, electrons in a material can zip past each other without also pushing each other apart. But in pentalayer graphene (depicted here), the electrons have such low kinetic energy that the particles' mutual repulsion becomes the dominant interaction between them. IMAGE CREATED WITH CHATGPT 5.2

For most of the last two centuries, we have not had to think much about electricity. At the start of this period, we were just beginning to understand what it was. And towards the end, climate change and renewable energy have rendered it a constant thought in our minds. But for many decades in between, we could take it for granted.

Electricity, most of the time, was just something behind a switch. If you flipped the switch, electrons would move through a wire. If you raised the voltage, more current would flow.

But today, there is another way in which some people are thinking about electrons – a way that could, someday, change the future.

Scientists have found that inside some materials, in extreme conditions, electricity behaves in highly unusual ways. The electrons stop being independent particles and begin moving together. They flow around edges with uncanny precision. Most of all, the particles seem split up into pieces, each apparently carrying a fraction of an electron's charge.

From ramp to staircase

Physics has made many weird discoveries – but a real contender for its weirdest find is the fractional quantum Hall effect (FQHE), which is where electrons behave in those strange ways.

Recently, physicists were able to make it even stranger by recreating it without one of the conditions they believed to be indispensable for it.

In 1879, the U.S. physicist Edwin Hall found something odd. If electricity flows through a metal plate when a magnetic field is pointing perpendicular to the plate, the current experiences a sideways push. (One reason this was odd was that J.J. Thompson would not discover the electron 18 years later.) Scientists later explained why: the magnetic field pushes moving charges sideways, causing electric charge to pile up on the plate's edges, creating a voltage across the metal. This came to be called the Hall effect. The compass in your smartphone uses it to point north.

As usual, the rise of quantum mechanics complicated the picture. In the early 1980s, physicists were studying very clean materials at temperatures just a fraction above absolute zero, using magnetic fields.

When they increased the strength of the field beyond a point, the resistance the current was experiencing – called the Hall resistance – stopped changing smoothly.

Instead, it took discrete values. For example, when before it could change from 1 to 1.1 to 1.2 to 1.3 and so on, now it could change only to 1 or 2 or 3 or so on, like climbing stairs rather than being able to use the ramp. In other words, physicists found the resistance became quantised. And they called it the integer quantum Hall effect.

Once again, they soon found an explanation. Normally, the electrons in a material can have a range of energies. But when there is a strong magnetic field acting on them, the range becomes a set of levels, called Landau levels. And the electrons can occupy only these levels. This is like when before a bunch of people in a room could lie down where they wanted – on one of the four beds or on the floor in between – now they could only occupy the beds. In this condition, the material becomes an insulator on the inside and a very good conductor on its boundaries.

Ocean of electrons

Then, in 1982, physicists found the strangest thing of them all. Sometimes, the Hall resistance occurred only in whole-number steps (1, 2, 3, ...) but sometimes it could occur as fractions: 1/3, 2/5, 3/7, etc. This was FQHE.

(The fraction here refers to the multiple of the material's natural Hall resistance. For example, if the natural resistance is 50 Ω, a fractional Hall resistance of 2/5 implies a measured resistance of 20 Ω.)

At first glance, this should be impossible: electrons are indivisible particles – you cannot break them up into smaller pieces – and each electron carries a fixed amount of electric charge. Yet the Hall resistance seemed to be changing in fractions, as though the current were being carried by objects with only a fraction of an electron's charge. What then was 1/3?

The answer came from quantum mechanics. When many electrons come together to interact strongly, they form a collective quantum state – a sort of liquid state in which it is impossible to distinguish individual electrons. This is like an ocean: you cannot isolate the single water droplet you dropped in it. And much like waves in the ocean – where no single droplet travels to the shore but the water as a whole has a moving pattern – a part of the collective quantum state can behave as if it possesses only a fraction of an electron's charge.

Physicists generally call these parts quasiparticles.

In this particular case, the quasiparticles were very unusual. They were of a type called anyons. Which meant they would also have a very unusual property: they would be much more robust than other particles (or quasiparticles) at storing information.

'Faking' a field

However, there is a big practical problem. The FQHE gives rise to anyonic quasiparticles.

But to create the effect, physicists need to apply a very strong magnetic field to the material – sometimes even stronger than the one in a hospital MRI scanner. And the material had to be very clean (i.e. almost entirely free of impurities) and held at close to absolute zero.

Try as they might for no less than four decades, physicists found that this was the only way to create the FQHE. Obviously this is not practical.

FQHE – but especially the anyons it gives rise to – could help quantum computers of the future protect information from noise, which is one of the enterprise's hardest unsolved problems today.

In 2025, Microsoft said it had built a quantum computing chip that created anyons using a different technique, and used them to store and manipulate information.

(However, many scientists doubt the company's claims: among other concerns, questions linger about whether the chip really contains anyons and the means by which that can be verified.)

A sandwich for electrons

One breakthrough came in 2024. It was based on doing something really clever, if also very sophisticated: if a strong magnetic field organises a material's electrons in unusual patterns, could the field's role be 'faked' from within the material itself?

Scientists have found that inside some materials, in extreme conditions, electricity behaves in highly unusual ways. The electrons stop being independent particles and begin moving together like a fluid

Turns out the answer is 'yes' if the material is graphene. Graphene is a sheet of carbon atoms arranged in a honeycomb pattern. Since the 2000s, physicists have found that if you stack one layer of graphene on another and turn it by a small angle – i.e. twisted bilayer graphene – the electrons in the stack behave oddly.

The grid of atoms in this structure forms what is called a moiré superlattice, which essentially significantly slows the electrons down. When the electrons slowed down, they formed a (strongly) collective quantum state – the kind of state that gave rise to the FQHE earlier. But this time there was no magnetic field; the moiré superlattice had recreated the field's requisite effects.

Twisted bilayer graphene has many odd electronic properties. However, it does not slow electrons down enough to create a sufficiently robust collective quantum state.

Usually, electrons in a material are zipping around with enough kinetic energy for them to ignore their mutual repulsion. This does not mean they clump together – more like they can zip past each other without also pushing each other apart.

On the other hand, the FQHE demands that the electrons' mutual repulsion must be the stronger force. For that, the electrons need to slow down beyond a specific point, and twisted bilayer graphene was not really creating the conditions for that.

Enter pentalayer graphene. After many experiments, physicists found that when they added more graphene layers to the stack, the electrons slowed down more.

With five layers – with each layer turned by a small angle relative to the one below – placed atop a substrate of hexagonal boron nitride, the electrons' kinetic energy dropped enough for electron-electron interactions to become dominant.

(Aside: If the electrons are repelling each other in this state, how come they form a collective quantum state instead of flying apart? When electrons are repelling each other but are also confined, they do not have the luxury of flying apart. Instead, they organise themselves better, leading to the collective quantum state – sort of like a negotiated settlement where they agree to not antagonise each other.)

Quantum materials

In 2024, a team lead by Long Ju at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology reported that it had detected FQHE in pentalayer graphene. They called it the FQAHE – the 'A' stood for anomalous, meaning it had been achieved without using a magnetic field.

The team reported observing Hall resistance like 2/3 and 3/5.

They concluded that the moiré superlattice created by five layers of graphene had produced the requisite structural features mimicking the effects of a magnetic field.

The experimental observation of FQAHE does not mean the underlying science is ready for real-world use.

With or without magnetic fields, physicists still need the material to be ultra-clean and work with it at very low temperature.

They also need to get the angles at which the graphene layers are turned relative to the substrate very close.

Even a small deviation can destroy the ideal moiré superlattice properties required to slow and confine the electrons.

Finally, the FQAHE also appears only when the material contains the 'right' number of electrons, which physicists can control by applying the right amount of voltage.

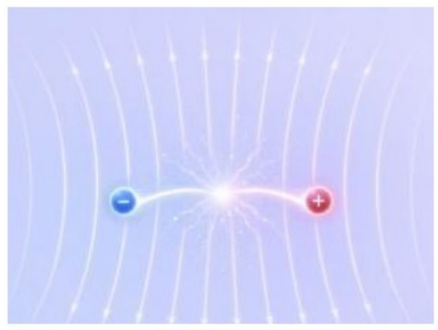
Since then, by fine-tuning these controls, physicists have found ways to create more robust FQAHE states.

Many of them keep going because of the value the anyonic quasiparticles hold for more advanced quantum computers – and indeed a whole world of physics that was previously locked behind powerful yet expensive magnets.

But more than that, science also advances when scientists recreate what they find in nature in new conditions. That is how we got air travel, lasers, nuclear power, antibiotics, and semiconductors.

Something similar may be happening now with quantum materials – materials whose properties arise from quantum physics effects.

mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in



An electromagnetic field can stir up a pair of subatomic particles from the vacuum at very high energy. IMAGE CREATED WITH CHATGPT 5.2

Tech needed to create matter from light in place

Vasudevan Mukunth

Matter can become energy. You might have seen this in the film Oppenheimer or in videos of nuclear explosions. Just as the nuclei fuse, a blinding light fills the air and sky, so bright that simply closing your eyelids does not help.

Physics allows physicists to do the opposite as well: to create matter from light. The problem is the scale at which the required technologies need to work. Scientists need to pack a great quantity of light into a really small volume of space, and hold it there for long enough for the light to 'condense' into matter.

Specifically, scientists need to create extremely intense electromagnetic fields (photons are packets of electromagnetic energy).

Recently, researchers from Germany, Ireland, the U.K., and the U.S. reported clearing a key technical hurdle on the path to doing so. Their findings were published in *Nature*.

Scientists need to pack a great quantity of light into a really small volume of space, and hold it there for long enough for the light to 'condense' into matter

The theory that describes how light and matter interact is called quantum electrodynamics (QED). Normally, empty space appears empty. But at extremely high energy, QED predicts that a sufficiently powerful electromagnetic field can stir up a pair of subatomic particles from the vacuum. The problem? The strength of the electromagnetic field required far outpaces what current technologies can achieve.

In the new study, the researchers used a different technique. They fired an extremely intense laser pulse at a polished target, immediately parting the atoms in its surface of all their electrons. The electric field in the laser light set the electrons oscillating back and forth at nearly the speed of light. This caused the target's surface to reflect the laser pulse in multiple copies at higher frequencies, called harmonics. Physicists have hoped to further compress these harmonics and focus them into small spots. Such coherent harmonic focusing (CHF) would make the harmonics extremely intense, approaching the levels required to create matter.

But while the idea has been around for two decades, physicists have struggled to realise it efficiently. Previous experiments produced harmonics but with much less energy than in the original pulse.

A pulse's intensity increases from the leading point to its middle, roughly. The time taken for the pulse's peak intensity to enter the target is called its rise time. The authors of the new study reduced the rise time to well under one-trillionth of a second. At peak performance, then, the experiment generated enough energy within the 12^{th} to 47^{th} harmonics to show for the first time that the efficiency required by theory may be within reach.

The authors have stressed that they have not yet demonstrated the final focused state, only that the essential technical ingredients are now in place. At the next generation laser facilities that the U.K. and China, among others, are currently building, the technique is projected to reach an intensity of 10^{29} W per sq. cm – the threshold where QED effects become apparent.

"The reward would be access to a new regime of physics, where light becomes strong enough to tear down the vacuum and create particles from nothing," Alexander Pukhov, of the University of Dusseldorf and who helped lay the foundations of CHF, told *Physics*.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

FIR registered against contractor in Bowring hospital wall collapse case

The complaint stated that demolition work of old buildings at the premises earmarked for the construction of the new nursing college and research institute building had been entrusted to Chennai-based ASR Traders in 2017

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nearly a month after the tragic wall collapse on the premises of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital that claimed seven lives, the Commercial Street Police have registered an FIR against a contractor and his company on charges, including causing death due to negligence.

The case was registered based on a complaint filed by Chandru, Executive Engineer with the Health and Family Welfare Engineering Wing, Arogya Soudha.

According to the complaint, the Karnataka government had constituted a technical committee to probe the April incident in which seven persons were killed after a retaining wall and compound structure collapsed. Based on its findings, a complaint has now been filed. The FIR names ASR Traders based in Chennai.

The State government had constituted a technical committee to probe the April incident in which seven persons were killed after a retaining wall and compound structure collapsed. FILE PHOTO

The complaint stated that demolition work of old buildings on the premises earmarked for the construction of the new nursing college and research institute building of the Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital Medical College and Research Institute had been entrusted to Chennai-based ASR Traders in 2017.

However, it is alleged that the contractor failed to scientifically clear and dispose of the demolished structures and debris, instead leaving them abandoned at the site, which reportedly contributed to the mishap. Following an inspection by senior government officials on the Bowring Hospital premises, authorities observed serious lapses and recommended criminal action against the contractor.

Officials said notices seeking an explanation were sent to the contractor through email on May 14, directing him to respond before May 18. However, no response was received from the firm. The complaint stated that government officials who inspected the site found serious lapses in safety and demolition practices and recommended criminal action against the contractor for negligence and violation of safety norms.

Manthana on CET seat allotment held in 64 colleges; 10,000 participants attend on Day one

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) Executive Director H. Prasanna said that the CET Seat Allotment Manthana, which began on Monday across 64 colleges in the State to provide information about the counselling process, received an encouraging response. He stated in a press release that more than 10,000 students, along with their parents, attended the workshops on the first day.

The workshops were conducted in government engineering, medical, and dental colleges across the State.

Trained staff

Trained resource persons and staff appointed by KEA were present at the venues to guide aspiring candidates and create awareness. They also answered students' queries.

Candidates had been instructed to book slots through the KEA website and then visit the college nearest to them. Around 13,000 people had registered to participate in the first day's workshop, Mr. Prasanna added.

Except for May 28, the workshops will continue every day until May 30 with two sessions each day.

Candidates may attend along with their parents to learn more about the counselling process, he said.

Gruha Jyothi

Three Years of Lighting Homes, Empowering Lives

Gruha Jyothi: From Zero Bills to Economic Relief

Guarantee Varthe

Bengaluru: In a time when the cost of daily living is soaring, one of the biggest concerns affecting the monthly budget of an ordinary family is the payment of utility bills. In such challenging times, the scheme that has illuminated the homes and lives of poor and lower-middle-class families across the state is 'Gruha Jyothi'.

One of the five Guarantee Schemes implemented by the government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, this scheme has, over the last three years, emerged as a force driving the economic and social progress of the state. According to statistics from the Energy Department, more than 1.64 crore domestic electricity consumers in the state have registered under this scheme and are receiving the benefit of 'Zero Bill'. For this, the government has so far spent ₹26,115 crore, paying it as subsidy to the Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs).

Officially launched on August 5, 2023, in Kalaburagi, the scheme has successfully fulfilled its promise of providing up to 200 units of free electricity to every household in the state. The most progressive decision under this scheme is that it was not restricted only to homeowners but was also extended to lakhs of residents living in rented houses. This has provided immense financial relief to the working class.

An Energy Revolution that Became a Model for the Nation

Karnataka's 'Gruha Jyothi' model is a revolutionary step in the country's energy sector. Beyond merely providing a free benefit, it has encouraged consumers to use electricity within their average consumption limits, thereby creating awareness about power conservation among the public. Several states across the country are now closely observing Karnataka's successful model and showing interest in implementing similar initiatives, which stands as a testament to its achievement.

Zero Bills Reviving the Rural Economy

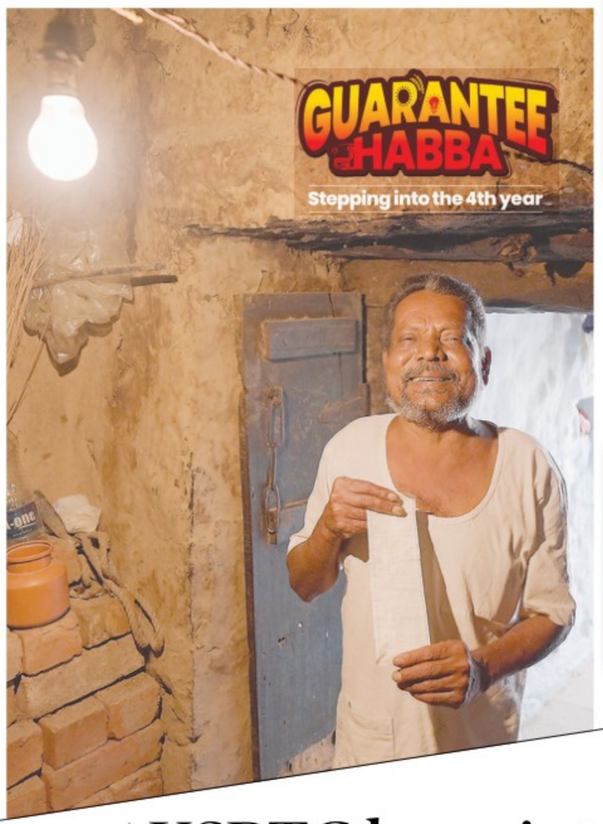
The amount saved every month through electricity bills - ranging from ₹800 to ₹1,500 - is now remaining in the pockets of poor and middle-class families. Parents are using this money for their children's educational needs, purchasing nutritious food grains, and meeting the medical expenses of elderly family members. Some have even started small-scale enterprises from their homes. As a result, people's purchasing power has increased, and the rural economy is also recovering.

BESCOM: 68,27,630 Beneficiaries, ₹12,168 Crore Expenditure
HESCOM: 34,50,833 Beneficiaries, ₹4,523 Crore Expenditure
GESCOM: 23,96,139 Beneficiaries, ₹3,367 Crore Expenditure
CESC, Mysore: 23,50,753 Beneficiaries, ₹3,032 Crore Expenditure
MESCOM: 16,37,123 Beneficiaries, ₹2,889 Crore Expenditure

For the people like us, paying the electricity bill itself had become a major challenge. Now, electricity has become completely free through Siddaramaiah's government. The money that remains with us is helping feed our families. Not only that, this scheme has become a source of light that allows our children to study peacefully at night without any fear.
Mahadevappa Valmiki, Haveri

We are people who earn our daily food through wage labour. We used to receive an electricity bill of nearly ₹1,000 per month. We had to set aside the wages of two full days just to pay the bill. But because of Gruha Jyothi, we now receive a 'Zero Bill'. Since electricity has become free, it has greatly benefited the lives of poor people.
Lakshman Kumar, Raichur

Due to lack of capital, I was unable to purchase new machines to provide tailoring training to girls and was worried about meeting electricity expenses. At such a time, the government's 'Gruha Jyothi' scheme became a great source of support for me. Once the concern of electricity bills disappeared, I saved the Gruha Lakshmi money, purchased new sewing machines, started my own tailoring classes.
Ameena Begum, Shahapur



Lighting the Homes of the Poor is True Governance
The satisfaction of seeing Zero Bills reach crores of households every month under Gruha Jyothi is immense. Reducing the financial burden on people and improving their quality of life is the fundamental aspiration of our progressive Karnataka.
Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

A New Chapter in Karnataka's Energy Sector
The Gruha Jyothi scheme has infused new strength into the economic empowerment of ordinary people. Along with freeing households from electricity bills, its greatest success lies in instilling discipline and responsibility in electricity consumption among the public.
D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Transparent and Continuous Energy Service
Despite the complexities of the electricity distribution system, our department has successfully delivered the benefits of Gruha Jyothi to more than 1.64 crore consumers without any confusion or disruption.
K.J. George, Energy Minister

karnataka information

'Accidental death' turns out to be murder

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A case, which was initially suspected to be an accidental death due to intoxication, has now turned into a murder case after the Whitefield police uncovered evidence pointing to a fatal assault near an under-construction building in Kundalahalli under Whitefield Police Station limits.

The deceased has been identified as S. Mehboob Basha, 59, a resident of Kundalahalli, while the accused has been identified as Sundaramurthy alias Shankar, 26.

According to the complaint filed by the deceased's daughter, Sabiha Basha, 28, Mehboob Basha had struggled with alcohol addiction for several years and had frequently suffered injuries after falling while intoxicated.

The police said that on the night of May 24 around 10.43 p.m., a neighbour informed the family that he had collapsed near the residence with serious injuries.

When family members reached the spot, they found Mehboob Basha lying unconscious with visible injuries on his body and fingers. He was later declared dead.

Initially, the police suspected that the victim might have died after accidentally falling in a drunken state.

However, during the investigation, investigators allegedly found that Mehboob Basha had consumed alcohol with the accused before a quarrel broke out between them.

According to the police, the argument escalated, and the accused allegedly assaulted Mehboob Basha with a wooden stick, leading to his death.

KSRTC bags international award for training excellence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has received both international and national recognition for its initiatives in employee training and public transport innovation.

In a statement, KSRTC said it was conferred the Golden Globe Tigers Awards 2026 under the "Excellence in Training" category at a ceremony held on May 20 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The award recognises the corporation's structured training programmes and transparent recruitment process.

KSRTC was conferred the Golden Globe Tigers Awards 2026 under the 'Excellence in Training' category at a ceremony held on May 20 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. FILE PHOTO

Over the past year, around 18,600 employees have undergone training, contributing to improved organisational performance.

The corporation also highlighted that its recruitment process from application to depot deployment has been streamlined to eliminate human intervention and ensure uniformity.

BWSSB to host India's first National AI and Digital Water Summit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will host India's first and largest National AI and Digital Water Summit in Bengaluru on May 27 to discuss the use of artificial intelligence and digital technologies in urban water management with experts and policymakers.

Discussions

The discussions will focus on AI-driven water governance, smart utility systems, digital twins, IoT-enabled monitoring, predictive analytics, wastewater reuse and sustainable financing models for urban infrastructure.

The summit will discuss the use of AI and digital technologies in urban water management. GETTY IMAGES

'Five Panchasutras'

During the summit, the BWSSB will be showcasing its ongoing digital initiatives and projects being implemented across Bengaluru. The summit will also present BWSSB's proposed "Five Panchasutras" framework focused on artificial intelligence, data-driven governance, smart infrastructure, sustainable investment and climate-resilient water security systems.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Persons killed in landslide at illegal gold mining site in Angola

28 At least 28 people died when a landslide hit an illegal gold mining site in Angola's Bengo province, one of the country's deadliest of such accidents. Four were rescued and search operations have now been completed. A boom in unregulated artisanal gold mining, driven by Angola's push to diversify from diamonds, has made such tragedies increasingly likely. REUTERS

Year-on-year GDP growth for Singapore in Q1 of 2026

6 in per cent. Singapore's economy grew six per cent year-on-year in the first quarter, driven by a surge in demand for AI chips, memory components and server parts. As a major electronics hub, the country has benefited from robust AI-related manufacturing and wholesale trade, offsetting risks from the West Asia crisis and rising oil prices. AFP

Tourists stranded at Gulmarg Gondola after a technical fault

300 Around 300 tourists were stranded aboard the Gulmarg Gondola in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday after the cable car system developed technical problems. Operations of both phases were suspended. There were no casualties. Hundreds of tourists were rescued safely by the SDRF, NDRF, police, and army personnel. PTI

Persons killed in train bombing incident in southwest Pakistan

30 At least 30 people were killed when a suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into a shuttle train carrying security personnel and their families in the city of Quetta in southwest Pakistan. The blast derailed coaches and caused major damage. The Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack. REUTERS

NGT penalises DUSIB for lapse in submitting sewage discharge data

50,000 in ₹. A fine of ₹50,000 was imposed by the National Green Tribunal on the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) for repeatedly failing to submit details of sewage discharge from JJ clusters. An earlier penalty of ₹25,000 was also ignored. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why is the Indian rupee falling?

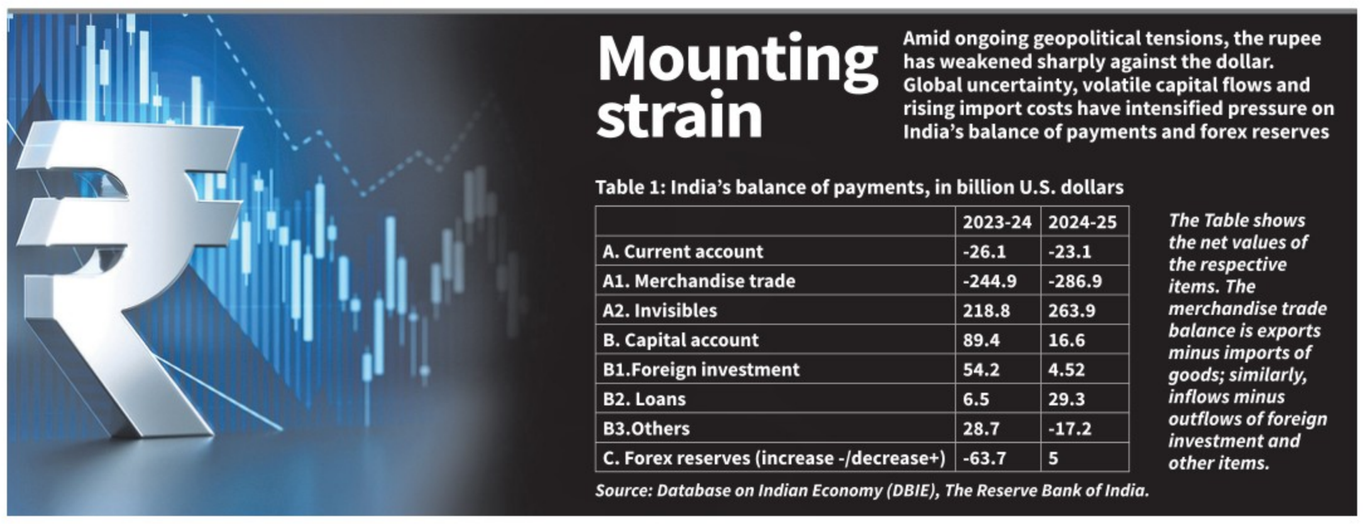
How does a falling rupee affect India's economy? How does a currency's exchange rate shape its balance of payments? To what extent does Foreign Portfolio Investment influence demand for the rupee? What strategic role does the Reserve Bank of India play in preventing the rupee's depreciation?

EXPLAINER

Jayan Jose Thomas

The graph of the Indian rupee has been snaking sharply downward. The rupee-to-dollar exchange rate, or the rupees needed to purchase a U.S. dollar, crossed 96 in May this year. That rate was around 85 a year ago, indicating the rupee's decline in value since then.

Exchange rate is the price that a currency, such as the rupee, commands in the market, relative to the dollar or other currencies. Just as the market price of onions is determined by demand and supply, so is the price of a currency.



Mounting strain

Amid ongoing geopolitical tensions, the rupee has weakened sharply against the dollar. Global uncertainty, volatile capital flows and rising import costs have intensified pressure on India's balance of payments and forex reserves

Table 1: India's balance of payments, in billion U.S. dollars

	2023-24	2024-25
A. Current account	-26.1	-23.1
A1. Merchandise trade	-244.9	-286.9
A2. Invisibles	218.8	263.9
B. Capital account	89.4	16.6
B1.Foreign investment	54.2	4.52
B2. Loans	6.5	29.3
B3.Others	28.7	-17.2
C. Forex reserves (increase -/decrease+)	-63.7	5

The Table shows the net values of the respective items. The merchandise trade balance is exports minus imports of goods; similarly, inflows minus outflows of foreign investment and other items.

Source: Database on Indian Economy (DBIE), The Reserve Bank of India.

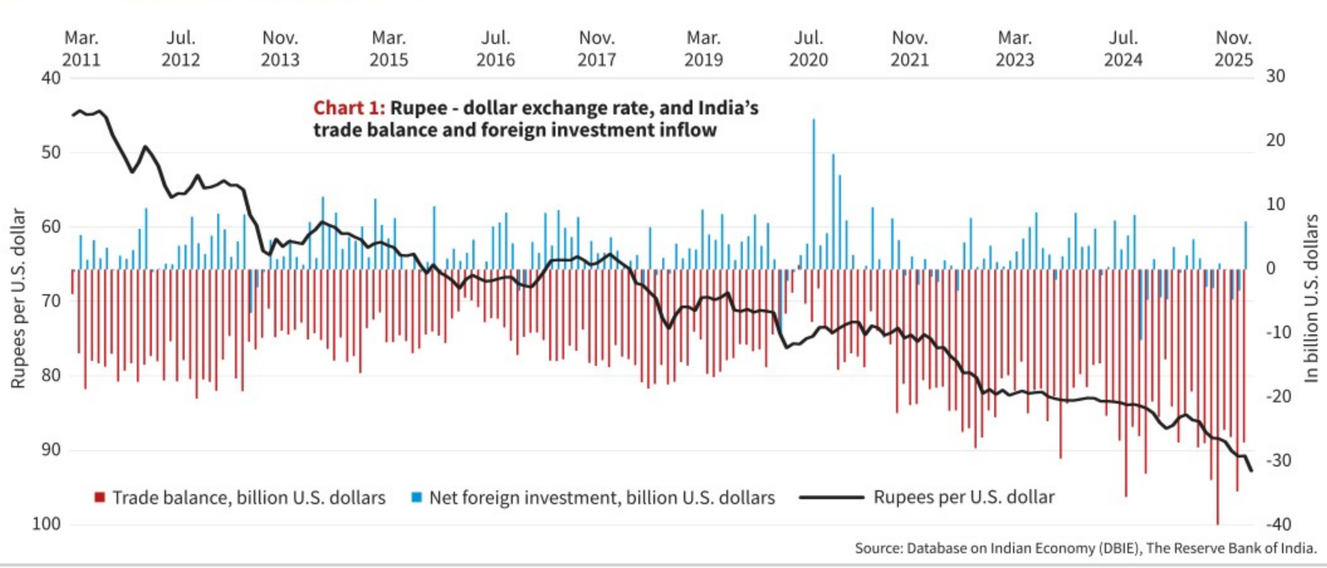


Chart 1: Rupee - dollar exchange rate, and India's trade balance and foreign investment inflow

Source: Database on Indian Economy (DBIE), The Reserve Bank of India.

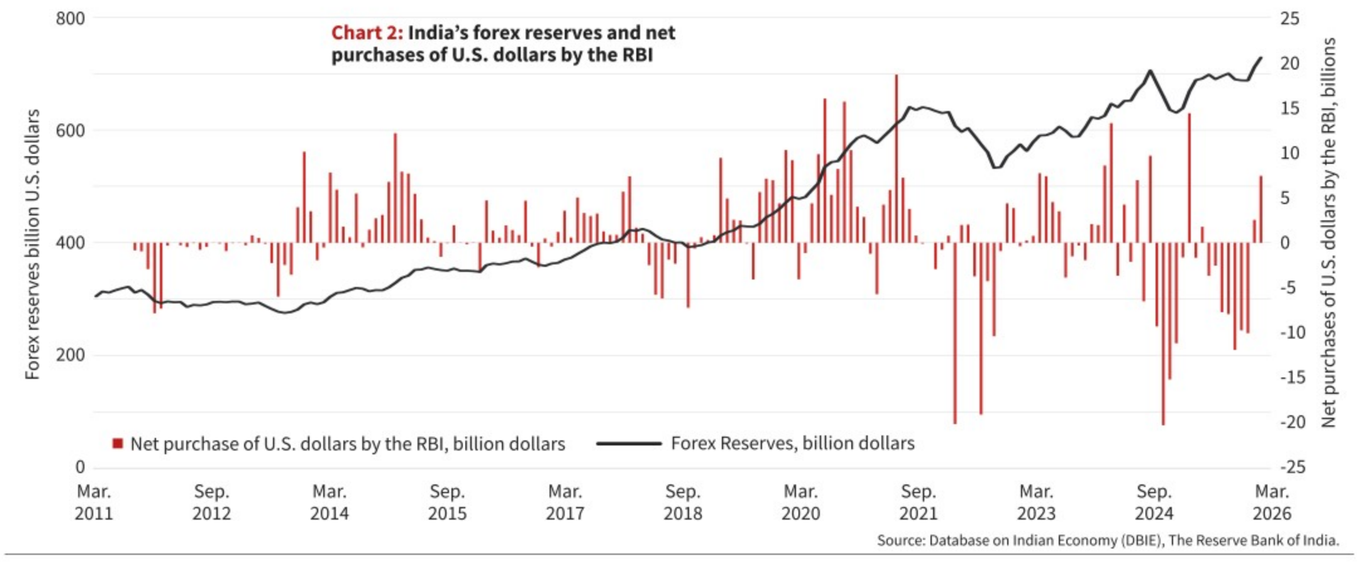


Chart 2: India's forex reserves and net purchases of U.S. dollars by the RBI

Source: Database on Indian Economy (DBIE), The Reserve Bank of India.

THE GIST

- The rupee-to-dollar exchange rate crossed 96 in May this year. A currency's exchange rate reflects the price it commands in the market relative to the dollar and other currencies.
- Exchange rate is closely tied to a country's balance of payments. India has consistently run a merchandise trade deficit, with imports — especially oil — exceeding exports.
- The depreciation of the rupee imposes significant costs on the Indian economy. Therefore, the country must regulate speculative capital outflows and reduce its dependence on oil imports.

What is the impact of trade deficits on the rupee's value?

The demand for the rupee rises with India's exports and falls with imports. When firms in Ludhiana export garments, the dollars or euros they receive from foreign buyers are exchanged for rupees to pay workers and suppliers, thereby increasing demand for the rupee. On the other hand, Indian companies import oil by exchanging rupees for dollars, thereby reducing the demand for the rupee. Rupee demand also declines when we travel abroad and exchange rupees at the airport for the currency of our destination country.

Overall, if India's imports exceed exports, the foreign currency payments it must make to the rest of the world exceed the foreign currency payments it receives. That implies more rupees are exchanged for dollars than dollars are exchanged for rupees, leading to declines in the demand for, and the value of the rupee (requiring more rupees to purchase one dollar).

Thus, a currency's exchange rate is closely tied to the country's balance of (foreign currency) payments (to and from the rest of the world). India has consistently run a merchandise trade deficit, with imports of goods (especially oil) exceeding exports. The deficit in its merchandise trade account is partially offset by a surplus in India's invisibles. That is mainly thanks to foreign currency inflows from the export of services, particularly software, and to the large remittance inflows from migrant workers, especially in West Asian countries. Overall, India's current account, which is the sum of merchandise trade and the invisibles accounts, has been in deficit **(Table 1)**.

The gap in the current account, between the foreign currency payments India owes to the rest of the world and the foreign currency payments it receives, has been bridged by inflows through the capital account, mainly foreign investment and loans. If the current account deficit is more than offset by a surplus in the capital account, the excess foreign currency received is added to the country's foreign exchange (or forex) reserves (Table 1).

How do capital outflows weaken the rupee?

A country's forex reserves are as valuable as a family's treasure trove. The reserves are tapped to pay for critical imports during periods of insufficient foreign currency inflows, and to defend the currency's value when capital outflows are too large (discussed below).

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is mostly in new or existing factories and businesses and, as a result, has some ties binding it to the host country. In comparison, foreign portfolio investment (FPI), which involves purchases of stocks or bonds, is highly volatile and driven by speculation. Portfolio investors enter a country seeking quick financial returns and exit at the first sign of risk or when higher returns are offered elsewhere. When FPI surges in, the stock markets are on a roll; when it flows out, it leaves a trail of destruction. Capital outflows imply that investors withdraw their investments in rupee assets and exchange them for dollar assets, leading to a tumble in demand for the rupee and in its exchange rate.

The periods of rapid depreciation of the Indian rupee have each been characterised by worsening of the trade account, FPI outflows, or both. These include April to September 2013 (when the rupee-to-dollar rate fell from 54.4 to 63.8); January to October 2018 (from 63.6 to 73.6); February to April 2020 (from 71.5 to 76.2); January to October 2022 (from 74.4 to 82.3); September 2024 to February 2025 (from 83.3 to 87.1); and the latest phase that began in May 2025 (from 85.2 to 96) **(Chart 1)**. The recent losses in the rupee have mainly been due to foreign investors withdrawing from India as they retreat to the safety of their home bases amid growing geopolitical tensions and higher U.S. interest rates.

The depreciation of the rupee imposes a high cost on the Indian economy. To purchase a barrel of oil at $100, Indian companies now must pay ₹9,600, compared to ₹8,500 had the exchange rate remained at ₹85 per dollar. However, a depressed rupee can help boost exports: a shirt costing ₹1,200 can be sold in the U.S. market at $12.5 now; if the exchange rate were ₹80 per dollar, the price would have been $15. But rupee depreciation alone may not help much, given the range of supply and demand constraints weighing on Indian manufacturing.

What is the role of the RBI?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervenes to prevent the exchange rate from falling to very low levels. When foreign investors rush out by selling their rupee assets for dollars, the RBI props up the rupee by selling some of the dollars (or treasury bonds) from its reserves. This raises the demand for rupee and slows its decline (as it did during October 2024-January 2025 and August-December 2025) **(Chart 2)**. India's forex reserves remain sufficiently large: they stood at around USD 691.11 billion at the end of March 2026, enough to cover 10.8 months' worth of the country's imports (as of the end of December 2025). That is a mighty armoury the RBI can deploy to shield the rupee against impending speculative tides.

The ongoing geopolitical tensions and the threat of further oil price increases pose severe challenges. India could be at risk of paying more dollars per barrel of oil and more rupees per dollar. The country must take steps to regulate speculative capital outflows and reduce its dependence on oil imports.

(Jayan Jose Thomas is a Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and a visiting researcher at the South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg.)

Elderly man duped of ₹16.24 lakh in 'digital arrest' cyber fraud in city

The fraudsters convinced the victim that his money had to be transferred for 'verification'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cyber fraudsters posing as Mumbai Crime Branch officials allegedly cheated a 76-year-old Bengaluru resident of over ₹16.24 lakh by threatening him with fake criminal cases and staging a fake virtual court proceeding.

Based on the complaint, the South East Division Cyber Crime Police registered a case on Saturday under relevant sections of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

The complainant, a resident of Pai Layout, stated that on February 16, he received a WhatsApp call from a person who introduced himself as Rakesh Gupta and claimed to be an officer from the Mumbai Crime Branch.

According to the complaint, the caller alleged that a mobile number obtained using the victim's identity was being used to circulate illegal and obscene messages and that multiple complaints had been registered against him. The fraudsters allegedly kept the elderly man under constant psychological pressure and intimidation.

A few days later, another person contacted the victim, introducing himself as Vijay Khanna. He allegedly claimed that the complainant's bank account had been used in a money laundering case involving transactions worth ₹2 crore to ₹3 crore and directed him to appear before the Mumbai police for investigation. When the victim expressed an inability to travel due to his age and health condition, the fraudsters allegedly told him that he could appear before a "Crime Branch Court" through an online hearing.

During a WhatsApp video call, another accused posing as a judge conducted what appeared to be a fake court proceeding and threatened the victim with arrest, while falsely assuring him that he would be granted bail, considering his age. The police said the accused continued to mentally harass and frighten the victim for several days, making him believe that an official investigation was under way.

The fraudsters later convinced the complainant that all his money had to be transferred temporarily for "verification" purposes and assured him that the amount would be returned once the probe was completed. Believing the claims and acting out of fear, the victim allegedly transferred ₹16,24,107 in multiple transactions through RTGS and IMPS to bank accounts provided by the accused.

Realising he had been cheated, the victim approached the police seeking legal action. Further investigation is under way. He discussed his ordeal with his family members, who suggested that he approach the police.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-07052026-272298
CG-DL-E-07052026-272298

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 2143] नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, मई 5, 2026/वैशाख 15, 1948
No. 2143] NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026/VAISAKHA 15, 1948

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(NATIONAL HIGHWAY 169)
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS, K.R.CIRCLE, PWD COMPOUND, BENGALURU-560001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

S.O. 2230(E). Date: 05.05.2026, Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, **296(E) Dated:20/01/2026**, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), Maintenance, management and operation of NH169 in the stretch of land from Existing Km 25.15 to Km 60.00 (Designed km 25.15 to km 56.70) (Except Designed Km 52.70 to 53.50) (Nellisara camp to Thirthahalli section) in the district of SHIVAMOGGA in the state of KARNATAKA;

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in **"The Hindu"** dated 04/02/2026 , **"Vijayavani" both dated 04/02/2026**; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances. The land owners can submit their statements if any, along with relevant property documents to the below address.

Sl.No.	Name of the Taluk	Name of the Village	Date, Time & Place
1	Thirthahalli	1) Kudumallige 2) Lingapura 3) Odalamane 4) Bharathipura 5) Thirthahalli Town 6) Beguvalli 7) Tuduru 8) Kudige (Gabadi) 9) Maluru	**03.06.2026** Time: 11.00 am to 01.00 p.m Inspection Bunglow, Thirthahalli.

Sd/-
SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
NH-169, NATIONAL HIGHWAYS, K.R.CIRCLE, PWD COMPOUND, BENGALURU-560001.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the stretch of land from Existing Km 25.15 to Km 60.00 (Designed km 25.15 to km 56.70) (Except Designed Km 52.70 to 53.50) (Nellisara camp to Thirthahalli section) Of NH169 in the state of KARNATAKA

State: KARNATAKA **District: SHIVAMOGGA**

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Hectares)	Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person
Taluk: Thirthahalli					
Village: Kudumallige					
1	5	Private	Garden	0.025	Narayan S/o Yallapachari, Suchetha S/o Gopala, Krishnamurthy S/o Duggapachari, Sandeep.
Village: Lingapura					
2	130	Government	Wet	0.02	Karnataka Irrigation Ltd, Upper Tunga Project Shimogga
3	134/2	Private	Wet	0.015	K.T Umesh
4	139/1	Private	Wet/Garden	0.06	Roopa K W/o G R Nagesh
5	144	Private	Wet/ Garden	0.045	M.K Mallikarjuna, M.K Ranganath, M.N Manjunath.
6	153	Private	Dry/ Garden	0.33	E.T Shridhar S/o Ettiyadi, P.K Raju S/o Kumar.
7	56	Private	Wet/ Garden	0.06	Syad Muneer S/o Syed innus, Syad Mohiddin, Syad Phairoj, Khathija B, Abdul Mathin, Abdul Raphik, Manjur s/o Syad Akbar
8	68/1	Private	Wet	0.075	Gangamma W/o Manjappa Gowda, Shankarappa Gowda, KrishnaMurthy, Gurappa Gowda, N S Sheshayya Gowda.
9	69	Private	Dry/NAK	0.195	N R Srikantaiah Gowda, T V Suresha S/o Vasappa Shetty, Rathnamma, Mahesha, Asha W/o Ramesh, Anusuya W/o Sathish, Ramesh S/o N R Hiriyanna Gowda, N R Nagappa Gowda
10	70	Private	Wet	0.0275	Jana Ajithakumara S/o C Premachandra, M D Hariyappa Gowda S/o Duggappa Gowda NAK
11	77	Private	Dry/ Garden	0.095	M.K Mallikarjuna, H S Dakappa, Padmathi, Rama, Mallika Hegde.
12	94	Private	Wet	0.14	Sayyad Nijam
13	95/1B	Private	Wet	0.025	Kahji Abdul Munaf
14	95/5	Private	Wet	0.005	Kahji Abdul Munaf
Village: Odalamane					
15	4	Private	Wet	0.1975	M B Krishnamurthy S/o Bomma Nayka, K N Manjunatha, Geetha, Noothan M M S/o M B Manjappa
Village: Bharathipura					
16	148	Private	Garden	0.01	Ramesh K T, K T Ramadevi, K T jayaram, K T Vijaya, K T Gopalkrishna
17	149	Private	Garden	0.01	Ramesh K T, K T Ramadevi, K T jayaram, K T Vijaya, K T Gopalkrishna
18	151	Private	Wet	0.015	KM Satya, KM Akash, Manjappa Gowda S/o Giddanna Gowda 151/1,151/2,151/3
19	165	Private	Garden	0.0075	KM Satya S/o Manjappa Gowda, Subbayya Gowda S/o Bharmayya Gowda
20	166	Private	Garden	0.065	Lakshmamma w/o Thimmappa Gowda, KM Satya S/o Manjappa Gowda, Subbayya Gowda S/o Bharmayya Gowda, Saroja, Sodhakar K D, Sunanda K D, Geetha, Sujatha H K, H K Sumitra, Poornesha 166/1,166/2,166/3,166/4
21	173	Private	Wet	0.0425	Sheshagiri S/o Shashaiah, K K Shashidhara Bhat S/o Koteshwara Bhat
22	193	Private	Wet	0.0775	Laxmamma W/o Timmappa Gowda, K M Satya W/o Manjappa Gowda.
23	194	Private	Wet	0.02	Laxmamma W/o Timmappa Gowda.
24	208	Private	NAK/Wet	0.05	K Raghavendra, Sheshachala, B T Laxminarayana, B T Manjunath
25	65	Private	Garden	0.1	K Raghavendra, Sheshachala, B T Laxminarayana, B T Manjunath
26	80	Private	Garden	0.03	S Ganesh Bhat S/o Narayan Bhat, S Prathana Shanai, S Archana U Prabhu, Shobana S G.
Village: Thirthahalli Town					
27	59/8	Private	Garden	0.01	Anjalina Aroja W/o John Aroza.
28	66	Government	Wet	0.17	Government
29	70	Common (Government/ Private)	NAK	0.17	Town Club, Office Quatres, muncipalty Manadhala, Horticulture Form, Danagalige Muffattu
30	73	Government	Wet	0.2	Government
Village: Beguvalli					
31	1	Private	Wet	0.1525	Jaganathachari S/o Manjappachar, Taramma W/o Narayanachar, Gurumurthy S/o Rukmachar 1/1, 1/2, 1/3
32	108	Private	Garden	0.155	Chadramma w/o Parameshwara achar
Village: Tuduru					
33	14	Private	Dry	0.04	Sudhakara AT, A T Shredhar, A T Sateesh
34	155	Private	Wet	0.05	Srinath P, BZ Parachuram.
35	18	Private	Dry	0.13	T C Vasudevaja Putta Bandari Manedala 22*44 Raghunathayya Manedala, TM Nagesh achar Manedala, T Shinappa Shetty Manedala
36	20	Private	Wet	0.08	T S Mahesh Hegde S/o T G Sanjeeva Hegde,Renuka T R W/o Purushottam Hegde, Sowmini TP D/o Purushotam Hegde, Sushil Kumar S/o Purushottam Hegde, Rajesh T R S/o Prushottam Hegde
37	87	Private	Wet	0.02	T Hiriyannachari S/o Puttachari
38	88	Private	Wet	0.3325	T Hiriyannachari, T Srinivasanaika, Puttaiahchar, Manjunatha B S/o Burudanna
39	99	Private	Dry	0.04	Dhanagalige Muffattu, Tudur Hindugala Smashanakke, Tuduru Muslim Smashanakke, Walq Property, Jayaram Bandari
40	Settlement	Private	NAK	0.04	Vasantha Hegde, Padmavathi rajappa Shetty, Ashoka Manjappa Gowda,Sulochana Shivappa, Nagaratna G rao
Village: Kudige (Gabadi)					
41	106	Private	Dry	0.02	H R sudheer S/o H V Rajagopal NAK
42	118	Private	Wet	0.04	H R sudheer S/o H V Rajagopal
43	95	Private	Wet	0.035	Vanajakshi W/o Bojashetty,Shankarappa, Satyanmarayana. GS Ramayya S/o Sannayya Gowda
44	99	Private	Garden	0.04	Vanaja Yane Vanajakshi
Village: Maluru					
45	69	Government	Dry	0.165	Government
			Total	**3.6325**	

[F. No. RW/NH/169/KNT/2022/3D]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮುಕ್ತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
ಮುಕ್ತಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು – 570 006
ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕರಾಮುವಿ/ಅಸಾವಿ/05–55/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.05.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮುಕ್ತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿತರಿಸಲು ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಸಿಂಥೆಟಿಕ್/ನೆಟ್‌ಲಾನ್ ಬ್ಯಾಗ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ K.P.P.P. ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ರೂ.60 ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.ksoumysuru.ac.in ಹಾಗೂ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಅನ್ನು ನೋಡುವುದು. E.M.D. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.1,20,000/– ಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಹಣವನ್ನು ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಾವತಿಸುವುದು.

DIPR/DDMYS/215/KSMCA/167/2026-27 ಸಹಿ/– ಕುಲಸಚಿವ

BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK, BENGALURU - 83.
Phone: 080-29776466 / 29776467 E-mail: ed@bannerughattabiopark.org

No: A3/BBP/FD/E-bidding-01/2026-27 Date: 21-05-2026

NOTIFICATION

The Deputy Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru, a unit of the Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK), herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invites e-Bid for competitive Rate of Interest for placing surplus funds of Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru from Nationalized Banks in Fixed Deposits (Non-Callable), whose Branch is in Bengaluru Limits only.

Detailed E-Bid documents may be downloaded from GOK Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last Date and Time for Submitted of Queries on **28-05-2026 upto 3.00 PM.** Date and Time to Confirm Participation of Interest in Auction on **29-05-2026 upto 3.00 PM.** Evaluation: **01-06-2026 from 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM.** Live Bidding: **Commences at 10.30 AM and Concludes at 1.00 PM on 03-06-2026.**

Sd/-
Deputy Director

DIPR/CP/803/Adverto/2026-27

KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL
(A Govt. of Karnataka Under Medical Institution)
Registered No. : KOL-S243-2012-13
Date : 15-03-2013
Phone : 08539 225522 / 23
E-Mail : directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Website : www. www.kimskoppal.com

No. : K.I.M.S./Koppal/Tender/DIET/2026-27 Date : 26-05-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tender is invited for **Supply of Ready Food to In-Patients for the Period of 01 year at KIMS Koppal** Basis under **Two Cover Bid System** as per KTPP Act 1999 rule 2000 KPPP Portal of Government of Karnataka.

1) Tender Approximate Cost : Rs. 159.00 Lakhs, 2) E.M.D. : Rs. 2,38,500/-, 3) Tender Documents may Download from the : 26-05-2026 @05.30 p.m., 4) Tender must be Submitted Online on before : 29-06-2026 @5.30 p.m.

Further information may be Obtained from the above Office during Office hours & also from **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and this office **Website : www.kimskoppal.kar.nic.in**

Sd/- Director,
Koppal Institute Of Medical Sciences, Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/107/Manipal/2026-27

Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department (PWD), Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru
Short Term Tender Notification No.: 05/2026-27 Date: 22.05.2026

In the above tender notice, tenders (for a total of 6 works–3 e-procurement e-tenders and 3 manual tenders) are invited from eligible contractors for the sub-divisions of Chikkamagaluru District Public Works Department under the following Head of Accounts: 5054-03-101-0-02-132 – Major District Road Bridges (Capital Expenditure), 5054-04-337-0-01-154–District and Other Road Improvements, 8443-00-117-0-16-542–Deposit Fund (SDMF) , 4059-80-051-0-60-132–Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme (Other Capital Expenditure). A total of 03 works are invited through the KPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) and 03 works through the manual tender process. Details regarding the capacity to undertake or execute the works (as per Standard Tender Document KW-1, KW-3 & KW-4) should be attached. The contractor shall be awarded the contract only if he/she possesses the minimum qualifications mentioned in Act 3. The minimum estimated amount of the tenders is Rs. 2.00 lakhs and the maximum estimated amount is Rs. 250.00 lakhs.For manual tenders, eligible contractors should apply for blank tender forms by paying the prescribed fee from 29.05.2026 to 01.06.2026 through manual process, obtain the blank tender forms on 06.06.2026, and submit the filled tenders by 5.00 PM on 08.06.2026. For the 03 works through the KPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in), e-tenders shall be submitted up to 4.30 PM on the specified last dates as follows: **1**) Indent No.: 34617 (2nd Call)–dated 01.06.2026 **2**) Indent No.:29902 (2nd Call)–dated 02.06.2026 **3**) Indent No.: 32345 (3rd Call). For further details, please contact the Subject Manager during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department
Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/38/276

BUILDING BLOCKS

The physics of thermometers, temperatures and cold atoms

We use different devices to measure temperature. The science behind them, and concepts such as absolute zero and cold atoms, reveal the complex physics underlying the measurement of heat and temperature

Adhip Agarwala

People from Bengaluru should not be allowed to complain about their weather turning hot. The other day, as a *namma* friend called to express disappointment over their daytime temperatures reaching as high as 33 degrees, I wondered in what Awadhi words should I inform her about the pleasant 42 degrees here in Kanpur. The baked earth, the breezily burning air and the blindingly bright sunny afternoons are clearly things she would not be missing.

Even while you drink a glass of *nimbu paani* to cool yourself, have you ever wondered: what does a 'degree' really mean? By that I don't mean your qualifications, but just the temperature. Also have you ever thought how does one even measure it?

GETTY IMAGES

Units of temperature

The standard unit of temperature is called Celsius, named after Swedish physicist Anders Celsius who designed some of the early thermometers. But there is a fundamental catch with measuring temperature. While we can feel anxiously hot or depressingly cold depending on the weather or global news, one challenge in measuring temperature is defining the zero for it. After all, unlike the number of gas cylinders or valid ID cards - can you really count them on your fingers, and say when you have 'zero'?

To define this zero - we use one of our common day magical materials - water. So, how does water help decide this? To proceed, we need to understand what temperature really is.

Temperature is a way of estimating how hot something is. Now when we heat a material, what we are really doing is making the atoms and molecules of that material more and more restless. They shake more and more vigorously as we pump in energy. Similarly when we cool something we make the atoms more sluggish, that is, we take away their energy. Not very different from us. So can we really continue to heat or cool something as long as we want?

Turns out the answer is no. For a while, the material may decide to get heated or cooled, but at some point it may decide to completely change its character. This is called a phase transition. You see this everyday. When water is kept in a refrigerator, it would first start cooling and appear as - just colder water.

But at some point, it won't cool as a liquid - but will start turning into ice, which as we know is a solid. This "temperature" at which water turns to ice was named 'zero' degree Celsius. Similarly, when water is heated, it gets hotter and hotter until it starts boiling and turning into vapour. After this particular "temperature" after which the water cannot get hot anymore - was named '100' degrees Celsius.

Therefore the zero and 100 of temperature was marked and divided into a hundred divisions so that we can measure everything else in these units. It is on this scale that our body temperature is 37 degrees Celsius. There is another popular scale – Fahrenheit, where zero and 100 is marked using a different protocol. On that scale our body temperature is supposed to be 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. In 1948 physicists finally decided to use Celsius as a standard unit.

Now that we have defined zero and 100 of temperature, the next question is how do we measure it? Here comes another magical material –mercury, no – not the planet.

Mercury thermometers

Mercury is a metal, like iron or aluminium, i.e., which conducts current and shines, but unlike our metallic utensils or spoons, it is in a liquid state. Now most metals expand a bit when heated. This is because the atoms within the materials tend to get away from each other when they are hot. But one of the most amazing properties of mercury is that it expands only as much as it is heated. Think of it like a rod whose length changes depending on how hot it is. So we have found the measurement trick.

The idea is simple: put mercury in a glass bulb attached to a tube. Keep the bulb in a bucket of ice. See the level of mercury in the tube and mark it as zero. Now put the same bulb in boiling hot water. Mercury will expand and the level will rise in the tube. Mark that new level as 100. Use your favourite scale to equally divide the distance between the two marks into 100 divisions. And you have a thermometer. Now you can put this thermometer in your favourite soup, or soil, or your mouth to measure how much the mercury expands to tell you what the temperature is!

In fact, this is how regular thermometers used to look until a few years ago, when phones were still non-smart. Most of the school going students today may not have seen these thermometers. They could easily break for no good fault of ours and would lead to a huge hue and cry from the adults nearby.

But in any case, mercury thermometers, then, could be found in every household. But as the quantity of greenhouse gases, global temperatures, homes, gadgets, and governments changed - our thermometers changed too.

Digital thermometers

So to measure temperature, one basically needs a material which changes its behavior depending on how hot something is, and whose change of behavior can be measured accurately. After all, measuring something correctly is fundamental to all of science. This branch of physics which specialises in the principles behind measurements is called metrology.

With advances in condensed matter physics – the physics of materials – physicists created a new class of materials called semiconductors in the 1950s. Semiconductors are neither metals (i.e. conductors) like aluminum or copper, nor insulators (i.e. things which do not conduct current) like glass or wood. Hence the prefix "semi". They conduct a small amount of current, but the amount of current they carry can increase if the temperature rises.

This is because semiconductors have a rather interesting arrangement of atoms and electrons.

In metals, electrons move freely from atom to atom, like a soup - so they can easily conduct electricity whenever a battery is attached. In insulators, the electrons are tightly bound to the atoms. So even when a battery is put - they refuse to budge. In semiconductors, electrons are loosely bound to the atoms. They mostly stay close to atoms, but when the atoms become agitated due to heat, they shake off these electrons. These "free" electrons can now move and create an electrical current.

Now when a battery is attached to a semiconductor and if the temperature rises, the atoms shake more vigorously and more electrons are made free. So the hotter the surrounding is, more current will be generated and if we can measure that current we can find what the temperature is!

This is what happens in a digital thermometer which you find in your homes now – with 70 years of technological progress, humans have perfected the art of measuring changes in currents and voltages.

Absolute zero and cold atoms

Now, even while water turns to ice at zero degree celsius – the atoms in the ice are still shaking, though more slowly. Now if we continue to take away their energy even further, is there a point where it can essentially have "no" energy? What temperature would that mean?

That temperature is now defined as the Absolute zero - in another unit called Kelvin (K): the scientific unit of measuring temperatures. In terms of Celsius, this means -273 degrees Celsius.

When temperatures fall to just a few Kelvins, they become even harder to measure. We cannot use our mercury or semiconductors to measure them, since the properties of these thermometers themselves would change completely.

In fact, even atoms themselves become very funny at these temperatures and we need to use the whole power of quantum mechanics to understand them. Study of such atoms at ultra-low temperatures is cold-atomic physics.

Bose and his condensate

Atoms, in general, can be considered as one of the two types of personalities. One: 'fermions' type, where they do not like to stay together in one room. And another: 'bosons' where they like to all stay together whenever given a chance. 'Bosons' is named after Satyendra Nath Bose, an Indian physicist. In 1924, he first theoretically predicted the statistical behaviour of these 'bosons'.

Many cold atoms are bosonic in nature and when they reach temperatures very close to zero Kelvin they form an exotic phase of matter called the Bose-Einstein Condensate (BEC), named after Bose and Albert Einstein. In 2001, three U.S. scientists Eric A. Cornell, Wolfgang Ketterle and Carl E. Wieman were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for achieving the BEC in experiments at a temperature of 20 nanoKelvins (nK). 1 nK is 0.000000001 Kelvin, just slightly above Absolute zero.

So, the next time when the heat bothers you, whether in Bangalore or Kanpur, and you call a friend to complain about the rising temperatures - don't forget to express gratitude to the long, illustrious line of thermometers that have accurately measured temperatures for you.

(Adhip Agarwala is an Assistant Professor of Physics at IIT Kanpur)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Hi! Come on in. Did your cousin get the job?"

"We are not really sure."

"Why not? He did well at the interview, didn't he?"

"He must have. But the man who interviewed him says that he'll give him the job provided my cousin pays him something in return."

"He wants a bribe, eh? Why doesn't he give him a piece of bread and get it over with?"

"A piece of bread! I wish it were that simple. The man wants...."

"....but that's what a bribe amounted to. Don't you know that?'

"You mean to say that when you bribed someone, you gave him a piece of bread?"

"Exactly! The word 'bribe', some people believe, originally meant a piece of bread. In the old days, when fairly well to do people went for a walk, they used to carry bread in their pockets. When beggars used to harass them for money, they used to dip into their pockets and give them a piece of bread instead."

"Since the rich man wanted to be left in peace, he gave the poor man a piece of bread."

"It was a bribe to stop pestering him."

"That's interesting."

"Tell me, are you planning on joining the new computer course?"

"No, I am not. It's very expensive. The fee ...."

"....how much is it going to cost you? Two cows or three cows?"

"Two or three cows! What are you talking about?"

"That's what the word 'fee' means. It comes from the Anglo Saxon 'feoh' meaning 'cattle'."

"But what is the connection between cattle and money?"

"In the old days, cattle represented a man's wealth. The more cattle an individual had, the more money he had."

"That's true. Anyway, what's the silly movie you are watching?"

"I have no idea what the movie is called. It's about this kid who gets rescued by a soldier. Later, they...."

".... speaking about soldiers. My cousin Ravi has joined the army. He told me that he is going to be in the infantry."

"Is your cousin an infant?"

"No, he isn't. He wouldn't be able to join the army if he were."

"That's true. Any way, this movie...."

"....wait a minute! Are you saying that there is a connection between 'infant' and 'infantry'?"

"Don't you see any connection?"

"Well, both words look alike, but that's about it. An 'infant' is a child. And 'infantry' is a term that is used in the army."

"Well, there is a connection. You see, the word 'infant' comes from the Latin 'infans which means 'unable to speak'. So, the original infant was a child who hadn't begun to speak as yet."

"....don't tell me the infantry consisted of little children who didn't know how to speak."

"No, I am not saying that. The original infantry consisted of young men. Youths, shall we say, and they..."

"....but surely these men could speak?"

"Of course, they could. But they were not expected to. Since they were all very junior people in the army, they were not expected to speak unless they were spoken to."

Published in The Hindu on September 26, 2000

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

From colonial censorship to post-Independence controversies, the history of books banned or withdrawn in India reflect the politics of offence and free expression

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1
Which 1909 work by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was proscribed by the British Raj?

QUESTION 2
Which 1954 satirical retelling of the Ramayana by Aubrey Menen became one of the earliest books banned in independent India?

QUESTION 3
Which 1988 novel by Salman Rushdie became the first book banned by the Rajiv Gandhi government for allegedly hurting Muslim sentiments?

QUESTION 4
Which book by Taslima Nasrin was banned in West Bengal in 2003 after it was accused by some Muslim groups of hurting religious sentiments?

QUESTION 5
Which biography by Joseph Lelyveld was banned by the Gujarat government in 2011 over claims concerning Mahatma Gandhi's personal life?

QUESTION 6
Which 2009 book by Wendy Doniger was withdrawn and pulped by Penguin India after a legal challenge from a Hindu activist group?

Visual question: Identify this individual, who introduced the Censorship of Press Act of 1799, imposing pre-censorship on newspapers, pamphlets and printed material. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1: In 1895, this famous English writer was convicted for gross indecency and for practicing homosexual acts sentenced to serve two years in prison. **Ans: Oscar Wilde**
2: Name the British politician and writer known for coining phrases like 'the pen is mightier than the sword' and 'It was a dark and stormy night' born on this date. **Ans: Edward Bulwer-Lytton**
3: May 25 is observed as 'Africa Day' to commemorate the foundation of the Organization of African Unity on that date in 1963. It was founded in this National capital. **Ans: Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)**
4: In 1977, the first of the 'Star Wars' films was released. It was retroactively titled as __ **Ans: 'Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope'**
5: A first achieved by British mountaineers Charles Evans, Joe Brown and George Band achieve on this date 71 years go. **Ans: Scale Kangchenjunga, the third-highest mountain in the world**
Visual: Name this Asian country celebrating its Independence Day today. **Ans: Jordan**
Early birds: Utsav Kaushal Ranjan | Sunil Madhavan | Prem Nath Tiwari | Soumendra Banerjee | Deepak Jiloha

Word of the day

Veracity:
unwillingness to tell lies

Synonyms: truthfulness

Usage: *Concerns were raised about the veracity of the viral video.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/S1djW2/veracity

International Phonetic Alphabet: /vəˈɹæ.sɪ.ti/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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	PLAIN	CHOCOLATE		VANILLA, CHOCOLATE, ARABICA COFFEE & KESAR							PROTEIN COLA BAR, CHOCOLATE BAR & COFFEE BAR	
CALORIES (KCAL)	128	130.2	348.5	133	138	225	107	108	107	57	68	272
QUANTITY	32 g	34 g	205 g (DRAINED WEIGHT)	180 mL	200 mL	250 mL	200 mL	200 mL	200 mL	60 g	60 g	400 g
PRICE (INR)	₹75 (PACK OF 10) ₹66.67 (PACK OF 30) ₹58.33 (PACK OF 60)	₹76.5 (PACK OF 10) ₹69 (PACK OF 30) ₹61.5 (PACK OF 60)	₹145	₹40	₹50	₹99	₹25	₹25	₹25	₹40	₹50	₹70

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A BG-BGE

Monsoon Session likely in Belagavi this time

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Belagavi, which hosts the Winter Session of the State Legislature every year, may this time be the venue of the Monsoon Session also.

Though there is no Government Order issued as yet, official sources say they have got feelers from the State government saying that they need to be prepared to organise it around mid-July.

"We need at least six weeks to prepare for the Session," said a senior officer.

Around 4,000 persons come to Belagavi during the session, officers say.

The idea was mooted by Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti and it has been communicated to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The Chief Minister is yet to publicly announce his agreement, a senior officer said.

However, farmers associations do not seem to like the idea. "We have heard from officers that Mr. Horatti has told them that the main reason for the shifting is to reduce the number of protests. Some officers told us that his impression is that farmers tend to protest more during the winter as they are jobless and will not be motivated to go to Belagavi during the kharif sowing season during the rain. If this is true, it is very unfortunate. Mr. Horatti who comes from a farming family should not think thus," said Bharatiya Krishik Samaj State unit president Sidagouda Modagi.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/184/2026
Dated : 19-05-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Composite work (Civil, Electrical General & OHE works) for construction of Chamarajanagar (CMNR) station yard remodeling and provision of Additional loopline at Hosa Agrahara (HAH) Station at CH:48655. **(Tender Ref. No. CMNR-HAH-YARD-LOOPLINE)**	Rs. 57,03,74,165/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 11-06-2026

For details log on: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/149/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

PUBLICATION OF TENDER NOTICE NO. 03-S&T/MYS/2026-01&02 DATED 18-05-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Name of Work	Approx.Value
1	**1.**Provision of shunting neck on Rd-4 for a length of 300m towards Sasalu end in Chickjajur yard. **2.** Signalling estimate for provision of trip shed at Chickjajur station **3.** Shunting Neck of 750m towards Kadur end by extending the existing siding on Road-4 at Birur (RRB) station.	Rs. 2,62,67,919.99/-
2	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Integrated Power Supply Systems of M/s. Statcon Electronics make over Mysuru Division for 3 years (15 Systems = Non HMRDC Section -14 Systems & HMRDC Section-01 System)	Rs. 77,43,947.40/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 10.06.2026

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Mysuru

PUB/145/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ECN-TRD-04-2025-RT dated 19.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointing Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for providing Project Supervision Services for Various Construction Sites/Sections (Bengaluru Cantonment & Hubballi Unit) in the jurisdiction of Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Hubballi over SWR Zone	Rs. 2,56,49,420.16/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 03.07.2026

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/TRD-I/ Construction/Bengaluru Cantt.

PUB/147/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. S/RWP/ Advt./E/2026-27/06, date 23.05.2026 Principal Chief Materials Manager /Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites online "e-Open Tender", through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website www.ireps.gov.in, for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **1. Tender No.:** 01261020 **Short Description of item:** Taper Ingate Sleeve (D-21). **Quantity:** 1377 Nos. **Date of tender opening/closing:** 16.06.2026 at 14:00 Hrs. **2. Tender No.:** 01261061 **Short Description of item:** Steel Rabble. **Quantity:** 8575 Nos. **Date of tender opening/closing:** 17.06.2026 at 14:00 Hrs. **3. Tender No.:** 01261140 **Short Description of item:** MS Pipe 32 mm Dia. **Quantity:** 42000 MTR. **Date of tender opening/closing:** 18.06.2026 at 14:00 Hrs. **4. Tender No.:** 01261052 **Short Description of item:** Asbestos Gasket. **Quantity:** 158867 Nos. **Date of tender opening/closing:** 22.06.2026 at 14:00 Hrs. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in**.

For PCMM/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2026-27/23

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 07th May, 2026

S.O. 2310(E) - In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby authorizes the officers mentioned in column (4) of the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the officers mentioned in column (5) of the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned in column (2) relating to district mentioned in column (3) of the table below for public purpose of execution, maintenance, management and operation of such Special Railway Project.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	District	Competent Authority	Arbitrator
1	2	3	4	5
1	Bengaluru City - Mysuru section: Construction of Road Under Bridge in lieu of LC No. 10 at KM: 10/900-11/000 between Nayandahalli and Kengeri Stations	Bengaluru	Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bengaluru	Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727

For details log on: https://egazette.gov.in

Pardeep Puri, Chief Engineer-III, Construction
Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/148/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 2 Dated:25.05.2026

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or (Commercial offers) through e-procurement portal are invited for supply of the following Goods/ Services.

Tender Nos. as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipment	Tender Value in Crores Rs. (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @17.00 Hrs
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0294	Procurement of Automotive lubricants required for Tata & Ashok Leyland BS-VI Vehicle	1.22	26/05/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0295	Procurement of Fire Detection and Suppression System- FDSS as per AIS 135 KSRTC Buses	1.12	01/06/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0296	Procurement of 2K PU Paints and Allied Materials	8.00	08/06/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0297	Procurement of Print & Cut Eco Solvent Inkjet Flex Printer, lamination Machine & personal Computer	0.20	01/06/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IMD0299	Procurement of Oil Seals	1.80	20/06/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IMD0300	Procurement of PU Adhesive Sealant	1.50	22/06/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0301	Procurement of Fan Belts	0.70	22/06/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0302	Procurement of Water pump and parts	3.84	22/06/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0303	Procurement of Fastners	1.00	22/06/2026

NOTE:- Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-46010000/080-68948777). Interested bidders may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to **support@eprochelpdesk.com** for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at **cosp@ksrtc.org**, (contact: 7760990224)

Sd/-
Controller of Stores & Purchases
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/JA/811/2026-27

KALYANA KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

Stores & Purchase Department, Central Offices, Sarige Sadana, Main Road, Kalaburagi-585 102. Mobile No. 77606 86172 (COSP), 77609 92029 (S.O).

No. KKRTC/CO/COSP/02 /2026-27. Dated:25.05.2026

TENDER INVITING NOTICE (THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Tenders through KPP portal (pre-qualification & commercial) are invited for supply of following items.

Sl. No	Tender No.	Tender Nomenclature	Estimate Value(Rs.)	Last date for submission of tender
1.	KKRTC/2025-26/ IND0189/CALL-2	Supply of Plywood Sheets	0.58 Core	10.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
2.	KKRTC/2024-25/ IND0125/CALL-7	Procurement of Oil Seals.	0.90 Crore	10.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
3.	KKRTC/2025-26/ IND0192/CALL-2	Procurement of Thin walled Bearings.	0.70 Crore	10.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
4.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0208	Procurement of Fasteners	0.94 Crore	10.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
5.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0209	Supply of Curing Envelops and Curing Bags	0.58 Crore	10.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
6.	KKRTC/2024-25/ IND0119/CALL-7	Procurement of Fuel Injection pipes & Leak off pipes	0.41 Crore	10.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
7.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0207	Procurement of Head Lamp Assemblies and Accessories	4.02 Crore	22.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
8.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0206	Supply of Desktop Computers, Laptops, Printers & Tabs	3.14 Crore	22.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
9.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0212	Supply of First Aid Box with Medicine	0.35 Crore	22.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
10.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0211	Supply of Fire detection & Suppression System(FDSS)	0.40 Crore	22.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
11.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0203	Supply of Automotive Grease	3.49 Crore.	27.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
12.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0205	Supply of PCTR & Allied Materials	11.02 Crore	27.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
13.	KKRTC/2026-27/ SE8553	Engaging an agency for providing technical assistants to the divisions of KKRTC	9.52 Crore	27.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
14.	KKRTC/2026-27/ SE8258-CALL-2	Identifying agency for providing IT Staff (Software & System Engineer on contract basis to KKRTC.	0.39 Crore	27.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
15.	KKRTC/2025-26/ IND0176/CALL-3	Supply of Fan Belts	0.38 Crore	10.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
16.	KKRTC/2024-25/ IND0101/CALL-5	Supply of Piston Assembly and Ring Sets	0.89 Crore	10.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
17.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0213	Supply of King pin Components & Stub Axles	2.13 Crore	27.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs

All the details of Tender, Registration, Tender form documents etc. are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.Mail** to **cospnekrtc@gmail.com or support@eprochelpdesk.** com for further information if required. Further, any addendum /corrigendum related to changes in terms and conditions of tender, specification and calendar of events etc. will be uploaded only through KPP portal.

Sd/- Controller of Stores and Purchases
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/Kalaburagi/158/Deshpande Publicity/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my Client is intend to purchase the residential BDA Site which is more fully described in the Schedule here under from its owner **MR. BASHA, aged about 51 years S/o Mr. Abdul Hakeem, residing at No.807, 6th Cross Road, Masjid Road, Gangondanahalli, Bengaluru-560 039,** which is allotted to him under special Incentive Scheme of developed sites on account of surrender of land in **Sy.No.94 of Ramasandra Village, Kengeri Hobli-1, Bengaluru South Taluk** to an extent of **0.23 Guntas.** Hence, if any person/s has/have any right, title, interest, objection or claim on the below mentioned Schedule Property, they may file their objections with the undersigned along with documentary proof **WITHIN 15 (FIFTEEN) DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my Client will proceed to complete its sale transaction as the same is free from all encumbrances/claims. Any objections received thereafter will not be entertained/ considered.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of BDA Residential **Site No.480** (also known as Site **No.B2-SD-480), (Sy.No.15 of Manganahalli Village)** formed by the **BDA in Block-2 of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Bengaluru** measuring East to West: **9-00 meter** and North to South: **6-00 Meter** totally measuring **54-00 Square Meters,** presently bearing **PID No.6000088737** and bounded on the:-

East by : Road,
West by : Park
North by : Site No.479
South by : Site No.481.

(U.L.SOMAPPA) Advocate & Notary
 # 708/41, Upstairs, Sree Ramanjaneya Road Srinagar, Bangalore-560050.
(M) 94480 50108, 98806 14954

Bangalore Date : 26-05-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General public that **P. Ramamurthy,** aged about 45 years, s/o. R. Perumal, R/at Yadavanahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 562 107, is the full & absolute owner of the site No. 31 of Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, which is morefully described in the schedule below, having acquired, under Sale Deed dated 13/03/2006, registered as Document No. ANK-1-19890/2005-06 of Book – I stored in C.D. No. ANKD 105 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal Taluk, from his previous owner/G. Jagan Mohan.

It is further notified to the general public that the earlier Sale Deed dated 31/07/2003 executed by Sundarappa in favour of G. Jagan Mohan, registered as Document No. 4698/2003-04 of Book – I stored in C.D. No. 34/2003-04 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal Taluk, is lost/missing. A Police complaint in this regard was also lodged with the Jurisdictional Police/Bangalore City vide Lost Report No. 2204811/2026 dated 15/05/2026. It is hereby requested that if any person/s comes across or finds the same, they are requested to hand over the same to the below-mentioned address & they will be compensated accordingly.

It is also notified that J. Saritha w/o. Thimmappa is intending to purchase the scheduled property from the owner/P. Ramamurthy, by availing a loan from LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

The General Public is hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule Property with any person/s based on the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk & cost, and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property, and in such an event, they have no claim of whatsoever nature against P. Ramamurthy, nor the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL property bearing **Site No. 31, Property No. 104/2/31, Janjar No. 3444,** as per Hebbagodi **CMC Assessment No. 1923/104/2/31 Property No. 6259964947** situated at **Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District** (Presently within the limits of Hebbagodi City Municipal Council, **Ward No. 28),** measuring **East to West 40 feet** and **North to South 30 feet,** in all measuring **1200 square feet** and bounded on the:-

East by : Site No. 32; West by : Site No. 30; North by : Road and; South by : Private Property:

Shri. G.N. HARISH, Advocate,
Office at No. 312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 070

Dated : 26/05/2026 Place : Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my Client **Mr.Syed Riyaz Pasha,** Son of Syed Sab (Phone No.9844186456) has negotiated to purchase below mentioned Schedule Property from its present owner Sri.N.Shivaramu, S/of. C. Nanjundaswamy presently residing No.67, 9th F Main, Opp-Water Tank, BTM 1st Stage, Bangalore-29 who has acquired the title & Possession by virtue of Registered Gift Deed dt:-5.5.1950. Any person/s, institution/s having any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge or encumbrance over the schedule property may notify his/their claim or objections if any, together with documentary proof to the undersigned within **Seven (7) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be conclusively presumed and deemed that no person/s has/have any right, title, interest, claim, charge or encumbrance whatsoever in the Schedule Property and further my client will be entitled to proceed with the transaction and get register the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Municipal No.67** PID No.64-179-67, e.Aasthi e.PID No.1355877488, New BBMP Ward No.171 situated at 6th Main Road, BTM Gurrappanapalya, Bangalore, (formerly site No.67, Old No.16/1-B Taverkere, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk) Measuring East to West-40feet and North to South-30feet in all measuring 1200 square feet. Bounded on the: **East by:** Site No.58, **West by:** Road **North by:** Site No.66, **South by:** Site No.68.

R.A. RAHMAN & ASSOCIATES
ANJUM BANU, Advocate
#1, "Tipu Chambers", 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, N.R. Road, Bangalore-560 002.
Date: 25/05/2026

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Bangalore - 560012

Advertisement No. R(HR)/Recruitment-1/2026

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up the position of Deputy Administrative Officer on deputation basis at the Institute. For further details, visit our web site: **https://iisc.ac.in/careers/regular-positions/**

Last date of Application: **15.06.2026**

Date: 26.05.2026 **Sd/-, REGISTRAR**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 02/2027/SBC Date : 19.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Tender No.	Description in brief (E-open Tender)	Qty.	Unit
1	L8265651	Supply, Installation and commissioning of Compressed air pipeline.	1	Set

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 10.30 hrs on 16.06.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Material Maneger, Bengaluru

PUB/144/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. BE-29-2026-27-OT-02 (through E-Tendering)

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Tender No.	Description of work	Approx. Value
1	BE-29-2026-27-OT-02	1) Provision of BEE 5 star rated air conditioning units in place of old conventional AC units on age basis and provision of BEE 5 star rated geysers in place of old non BEE 5 star rated geysers on age cum condition basis over Bengaluru division 2) Provision of standby pumps over major GLRs of Bengaluru division **Period of Comp. (Month) : 08 Months**	Rs. 1,02,70,867/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 12.06.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General/, Bengaluru

PUB/146/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

Odisha Police

Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack

Tel. :0671-2304001, Website : www.odishapolice.gov.in,
Email: Email : sphqrs.orpol@nic.in & aig-prov.dopol@od.gov.in

RFP No. 01-RFP-OPSCIC-2026-27 **Date :22.05.2026**

Online Bids through e-Tender Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** are invited from the eligible bidders for hiring of Setting up of Odisha Police Strategic Communication and Information Cell for Odisha, Cuttack, during the current financial year **2026-27** as per the schedule mentioned below.

Sl.No.	Name of Item	Ref No
1.	Odisha Police Strategic Communication and Information Cell for Odisha Police	01-RFP-OPSCIC-2026-27

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date	Time
1	Date & Time of release of bid	22.05.2026	05:00 PM
2	Deadline for Submission of Pre-Proposal/ Pre-Bid Queries.	28.05.2026	05:00 PM
3	Issue of Pre-bid Clarification	01.06.2026	05:00 PM
4	Last Date & Time of online bid submission	02.06.2026	05:00 PM
5	Date & Time for online Technical bid opening	08/06/2026, 11.30 AM	
6	Date of presentation of solution of e-tender / Technical Bid evaluation	To be informed to the participated bidders	
7	Date of Price bid opening	To be informed to the qualified bidders	
8	Venue	State Police Hdqrs., Cuttack, Buxi Bazar, Odisha	
9	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Refundable)	8,64,000/- (Rupees Eight lakh Sixty Four Thousand) only	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites : https://tendersodisha.gov.in. The Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning,) Odisha, Cuttack.
(Tender Calling Authority)

12001/26/2627 OIPR-12001/12029/1/26-27/0006

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT TRIBAL WELFARE OFFICER

Chamarajanagar Dist., Chamarajanagar
 # 3rd Floor, Tribal Welfare Dept. Building Mahaveer Divine City Pragathi Nagar, Chamarajanagar - 571313
Telephone : 08226-226070 Fax : 08226-226070
Email : dtwoffice.217@gmail.com

No. DTWO/Ten-01/CR/2025-26 **Dated : 21-05-2026**

RE TENDER NOTIFICATION

For the academic year 2026-27 and 2027-28, for the supply of Group- A, Group-B, Group-C, Group-D Group-E Group-F Group-G & Group-H(A) & H(B) food items for Rs.1370.00 lakhs to the students of Pre-Matric / Post-Matric Hostels and Maharshi Valmiki Adivasi Budakattu Vasathi Schools of Tribal Welfare Department under the jurisdiction of Chamarajanagar District in double envelope system. E Tender Announcement through KPP portal will be issued on Date: 29.04.2026. Date : 29.04.2026 to 29.05.2026 by 4.00 PM on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** eligible organizations are invited to upload the relevant documents as per the terms and conditions of the tender.

For further information Office of the District Tribal Welfare Officer, # 3rd Floor, Tribal welfare Dept. Building Mahaveer divine city Pragathi Nagar, Chamarajanagar requested to be contacted during office hours.

Sd/- District Tribal Welfare Officer
Chamarajanagar District
Chamarajanagar

No : DIPR:CHANAGAR:128:2026-27

Government of Karnataka

Raichur Institute Of Medical Sciences, Raichur
(Govt. Autonomous Institution)
Hydrabad Road, Raichur -584102Phone /Fax-08532-238488/89
Web. www. rims-raichur.comEmail /inforimsraichur@gmail.com

No.RIMS/SUP/TEND/2026-27 Dated: 22.05.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Supply of Various Drugs, Injections and Chemicals to RIMS Teaching Hospital, Raichur under two cover bid system through KPPP Portal of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No	Particulars	Tender No	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)
1	Supply of Various Drugs to RIMS Teaching Hospital, Raichur	RIMS/SUP/TEND/DRUGS/ 162/2026-27 (DME/2026-27/IND2338)	96.12
2	Supply of Various Chemicals & Reagents to RIMS Teaching Hospital, Raichur	RIMS/SUP/TEND/CHEM/ 163/2026-27 (DME/2026-27/IND2347)	90.39
3	Supply of Various Injections to RIMS Teaching Hospital, Raichur	RIMS/SUP/TEND/INJ/164/ 2026-27(DME/2026-27/ IND2348)	44.93

1) Tender document may be downloaded from KPPP Portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from 25.05.2026, 2) Last Date for Queries on or before 01.06.2026 @ 05.00 PM, 3) Tender must be submitted online through KPPP Portal on or before 08.06.2026 upto 5.00 PM & 4)Technical bid will be opened on 10.06.2026 at 11.30 A.M.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ : 1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೆ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ / ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. 2) ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಯಾವುದೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೊರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

Further information may be obtained from above office and from www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Director
Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences
Raichur

DIP/RCR/89/KSMC&A/91/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking a title investigation on the immovable property bearing Survey No. 56/2 measuring 07 Guntas, situated at Chikkaralagere Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District (more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and hereinafter referred to as '**Schedule Property**'). The said title due diligence is being conducted for and on behalf of our Client who is desirous of acquiring the Schedule Property. Mr. Shamsheer Beig, son of Mr. Fayaz Beig ('**Owner**') has represented to our Client that he owns the Schedule Property and has unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the present owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claim/s or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of **10 (ten) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owner has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Survey No. 56/2 measuring 07 Guntas, situated at Chikkaralagere Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded as follows:

East by : Land bearing Survey No.56/1;
West by : Land bearing Survey No.57;
North by : Land bearing Survey No 56/1; and
South by : Land bearing Survey No. 17/1 of K.K. Beedu Village.

Sd/-
Mr. Srinivas B.R., Partner
DSK Legal,
Prestige Loka, No. 201,
2nd Floor, No. 7/1 & 7/7, Brunton Road,
Bengaluru – 560025, Tel: 080-69548770.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 26.05.2026

Tata Power moves KERC for distribution licence

Power sector employee unions affiliated to the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited are likely to oppose the move and are expected to strike against the proposal

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Within Bescom limits alone, the Tata Power Company says it plans to serve over 1.86 lakh consumers within three years of obtaining the licence. FILE PHOTO

Tata Power Company Limited has approached the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) seeking a power distribution licence for areas currently served by Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) and the electricity supply companies in Hubballi (Hescom), Mangaluru (Mescom), and Kalaburagi (Gescom).

KERC officials confirmed that the petition is currently under scrutiny.

Power sector employee unions affiliated to the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) are likely to oppose the move and are expected to strike against the proposal, though the union leaders said a final stand would be decided after internal discussions.

Within Bescom limits alone, Tata Power Company said it plans to serve over 1.86 lakh consumers within three years of obtaining the licence.

If Tata Power Company is granted permission to operate, it would open the door for private participation in areas where government utilities currently supply power. Consumers would eventually get an option to choose between distributors.

The company currently operates in Mumbai, Delhi, Odisha, and Ajmer. In its application, the company claimed to have reduced transmission and distribution losses in the mentioned areas and said it intends to use its expertise to meet the growing power demand in the proposed Karnataka regions. The company said it plans to distribute and supply electricity in these geographically connected areas under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003.

Power experts, speaking on condition of anonymity, supported the move, arguing that this could create "healthy competition" and eventually improve service quality, reduce power losses, and bring more investment into the electricity network.

They added that despite high power generation, Escoms', specifically Bescom's, services continue to face criticism because of ageing infrastructure. "A comparative study, explaining the factors, must be done to understand what customers should choose and why," they added. The financial loss incurred by Escoms in Karnataka stood at ₹34,980 crore in 2024-25, while total borrowings rose from ₹32,211 crore in 2022-23 to ₹47,993 crore in 2024-25.

State-run Escoms told *The Hindu* that allowing another player is at the discretion of KERC.

"The Electricity Act, 2003 permits companies to seek distribution of licences," officials said, adding that the entry of another company would not mean that State-run Escoms would cease operations.

However, some officials, expressing concerns, said electricity distribution works on a cross-subsidy model, where industries, commercial establishments, and urban consumers generally pay higher tariffs, and that the revenue helps utilities supply subsidised power to farmers and rural households. If private companies mainly attract high-paying consumers in profitable urban pockets, Escoms could lose a major source of income while remaining responsible for supplying power to a section of the population and area.

Officials also pointed out that it may create an uneven system where private players enter only financially attractive areas while the burden of public service remains with State utilities. Over time, they said, this could weaken the financial condition of Escoms and increase the subsidy burden on the State government.

State moves towards faster, reliable emergency care with launch of govt.-owned 108 command centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurating the government-owned 108 'Arogya Kavacha Centralised Command and Control Centre' in Bengaluru, on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday inaugurated the government-owned '108 Arogya Kavacha Centralised Command and Control Centre' in Bengaluru, marking a major transition in Karnataka's emergency healthcare management system.

The initiative, announced in the State Budget for 2025-26, seeks to strengthen emergency medical response services through a unified, technology-driven platform integrating ambulance dispatch, emergency helplines, and healthcare coordination.

The 108 Arogya Kavacha service, Karnataka's free emergency ambulance network, was launched in August 2008 under a public-private partnership model and was being operated by GVK EMRI. The service functions round the clock across all 31 districts and caters to medical, trauma, and obstetric emergencies.

Officials said an exit management plan has been chalked out and the agency's functioning will be gradually taken over by the government in the next three to four months.

Speaking after inaugurating the facility, Mr. Siddaramaiah said Karnataka had become the first State in the country to establish a fully government-owned centralised command and control system for emergency ambulance services.

He said the system would facilitate faster and more reliable emergency response through real-time coordination, GPS-enabled ambulance tracking, and integrated public emergency platforms.

Mr. Siddaramaiah stressed the importance of treatment during the "golden hour", particularly in cases involving road accidents, cardiac emergencies, and pregnancy-related complications.

Nearly 80% of patients had survived because of timely emergency intervention during the critical period, he said.

The Chief Minister noted that Bengaluru currently had between 65 and 70 ambulances catering to emergency healthcare services.

The Chief Minister observed that accountability had remained limited when the 108 ambulance system was managed by the private agency. However, with the service now functioning under government administration, public oversight and responsibility would improve considerably, he said.

Pointing out that treatment for serious illnesses such as cancer was often unaffordable in private hospitals, he said government hospitals were increasingly equipped to provide quality healthcare services.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the new Command and Control Centre integrates the 108 Arogya Kavacha and 104 Arogya Sahayavani services under a single platform. It is also linked with several emergency and public healthcare systems, including 112 Emergency Response Support System, 181 Women's Helpline, 1098 Child Helpline, TeleManas, and eSanjeevani.

The system enables real-time GPS tracking of ambulances and automatic caller location detection

The centre has been developed on the CDAC NGERSS V2.0 platform and includes a 50-seat call centre for centralised ambulance dispatch operations. The system enables real-time GPS tracking of ambulances, automatic caller location detection, intelligent nearest-ambulance allocation with estimated arrival time calculation, digital patient care records through Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs), and hospital pre-alert notifications. SMS alerts containing ambulance details would also be sent to patients and callers, he said.

Expansion planned

Mr. Rao said the government planned to extend the centralised dispatch mechanism to include State-sector ambulances and "Nagu Magu" ambulances used for transporting mothers and newborns after delivery. He said the next phase of the project would introduce connected ambulances equipped with IoT and biotelemetry systems capable of transmitting patient vitals such as ECG, oxygen saturation, blood pressure, and heart rate to emergency response doctors in real time.

Farmers are an integral part of alco-bev industry, don't leave them behind: Timmapur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Farmers are an integral part of the State's alcohol-beverage industry, and the government is committed to ensuring inclusive industrial growth in Karnataka, said Excise Minister R.B. Timmapur here on Monday.

He urged the industry not to leave farmers behind in their growth journey, as most raw materials required for breweries – including barley, grains, fruits, and other agricultural produce – are cultivated by farmers. They are an integral part of industry supply chains, he said.

Speaking at an industry conclave, the Minister said, "The growth of the brewery ecosystem should not only benefit breweries, manufacturers, and frontend industry players, but also farmers and raw material providers at the grassroots level."

The Minister said the industry currently generates nearly ₹40,000 crore annually through excise revenue, adding that the government is committed to significantly expanding the sector through forward-looking policy frameworks.

Mr. Timmapur said Karnataka has undertaken significant excise and regulatory reforms over the last year to improve ease of doing business and strengthen the alco-bev ecosystem.

The government is moving towards a more transparent, technology-enabled and industry-friendly ecosystem through simplified label approvals, streamlined declared price and MRP updation, digital compliance mechanisms, annual licence renewal reforms, and operational rationalisation measures, the Minister said.

If the industry brings forward ideas for innovation, research, manufacturing expansion, or sustainability-led growth, the government would continue to support progressive initiatives and domestic manufacturing capabilities, he assured brewers, distillers, sustainability experts, technology providers, and industry stakeholders gathered at the summit.

The Minister also stressed the importance of sustainability initiatives, including bottle recycling, wastewater treatment, water conservation, and environmentally responsible manufacturing, to protect nature and the ecosystem.

He added that strengthening domestic manufacturing and reducing dependence on imports would help build a stronger, globally competitive Indian brewing industry.

Shivkumar Eashwaran, chairman of Indian Chamber of Commerce, chairman of Canadian Crystalline Water India Limited, and Consul General of the Republic of Armenia in South India, said sustainability, inclusive growth, and resource optimisation would define the future of the alco-bev industry.

"Water conservation, wastewater recycling, energy efficiency, and circular economy practices must become integral to brewing and distillation operations. Karnataka has the opportunity to emerge as a globally benchmarked sustainable brewing ecosystem," he said.

Two auto drivers murdered in separate incidents in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 36-year-old autorickshaw driver was stabbed to death over a drunken altercation near a bar in Bengaluru during the early hours of Monday. The deceased has been identified as Syed Shafi, 36, a resident of Razaqsab Palya in Bagalur.

According to the police, the incident took place around 1.30 a.m. near Meena Bar on the main road at Abbigere within the limits of the Chikkabanavara Police Station. The accused, identified as Darshan alias Das, had reportedly come to the bar along with his friends. After the bar closed, the group stepped outside to relieve themselves, while the victim was seated inside an autorickshaw along with another person.

The police said the accused allegedly picked up a quarrel with Shafi under the influence of alcohol, suspecting that the autorickshaw driver was staring at him. The argument escalated into a violent clash between the two. During the altercation, Darshan allegedly took out a dagger and stabbed Shafi. The other person who was inside the autorickshaw reportedly fled the spot after witnessing the attack. Shafi died on the spot. The police have registered a case and arrested Darshan.

In another incident, a 25-year-old autorickshaw driver was allegedly murdered over a financial dispute and his body dumped in a pit near Ramanasandra in Kumbalagodu on Sunday. The complaint was filed by Pushpalatha, 49, a resident of Uday Layout, Tavarekere. According to the complaint, her second son, Rakshith N, who worked as an autorickshaw driver, had left home around 6 p.m. on May 24 after meeting his friend Mohin Pasha, a resident of Kambipura. Mohin Pasha had allegedly told Rakshith that he would help recover money owed to him. Rakshith did not return home thereafter. Worried, Pushpalatha reportedly went to Kambipura on Sunday and questioned Mohin Pasha. During questioning, the accused allegedly confessed that he had picked up a quarrel with Rakshith over financial matters. The police said Mohin Pasha, along with his relative Hasan, allegedly bludgeoned him to death. The accused allegedly dumped the body in a pit located in a vacant area at Ramanasandra before fleeing. The police have registered a case.

Astronomers spot blue straggler star hosting brown dwarf companion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

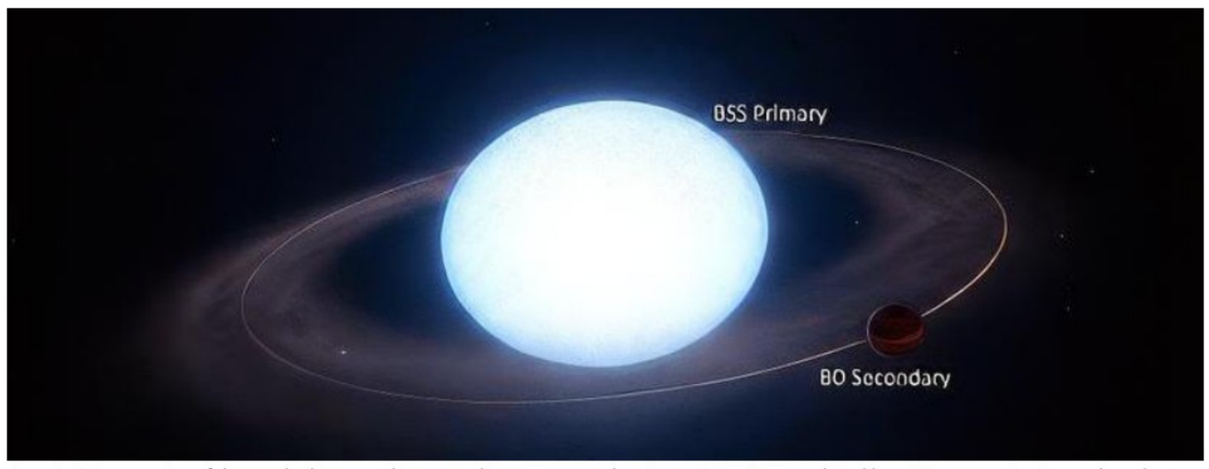
A team of astronomers from various institutions have made the world's first confirmed discovery of a blue straggler star hosting a brown dwarf companion in a very compact binary system.

This breakthrough by the team from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Gauhati University, and INAF-Catania Astrophysical Observatory, Italy, could reshape astronomers' understanding of how stars evolve.

According to the Department of Science and Technology, scientists have long been puzzled by blue straggler stars, which appear brighter and bluer than the main-sequence turn-off in star clusters, defying standard stellar evolution because all cluster stars are expected to be of similar age.

The team

The team consisted of Ali Hasan Sheikh, Biman J. Medhi from Gauhati University, Sergio Messina from INAF-Catania, Annapurni Subramanium and Ram Sagar from IIA, and Neelam Panwar from ARIES. They found that the system has an exceptionally short orbital period of around 5.6 hours (0.234 days) and contains the lightest companion ever detected around a blue straggler, with a mass of approximately 0.056 times the mass of the Sun, placing it firmly below the hydrogen-burning limit.



An artist's impression of the newly discovered compact binary system showing a BSS primary orbited by a BD companion in an ultra-short, nearly circular orbit with a period of about 5.6 hours. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The study published in the journal 'Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society: Letters' reveals the shortest-period binary system discovered inside the so-called "brown dwarf desert", a region where such companions are thought to be extremely rare.

The results help refine theoretical models of stellar evolution, binary interactions, and substellar objects

Accurate models

"The rapidly rotating blue straggler star, accompanied by a substellar brown dwarf, that the researchers spotted is an object too massive to be a planet but too small to ignite as a true star. The study advances fundamental scientific knowledge by improving our understanding of how stars evolve, interact, and survive extreme environments, which is essential for building accurate models of stellar and cosmic evolution," the Department said.

It added that the results help refine theoretical models of stellar evolution, binary interactions, and substellar objects, which are widely used in interpreting data from ground-based observatories and space missions.

THE HINDU GROUP

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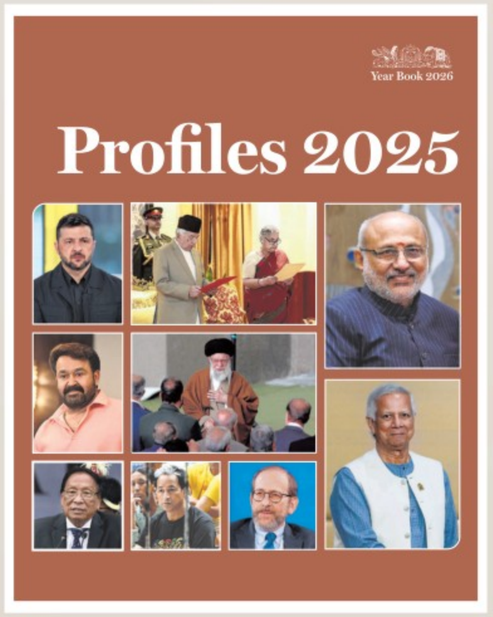

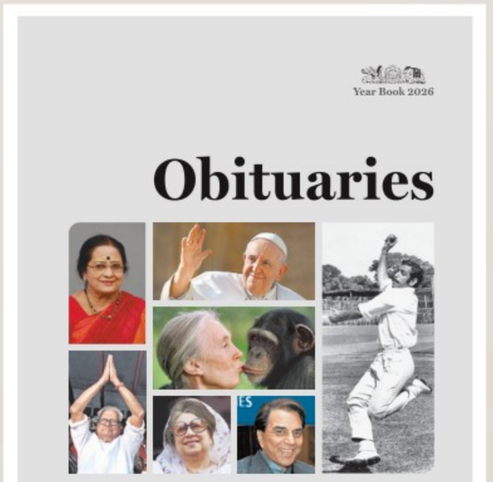

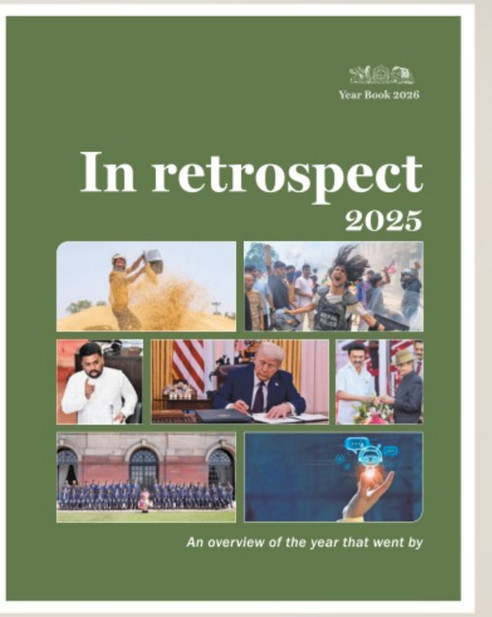

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A BG-BGE

Entry to Balmuri banned after drowning incidents in Cauvery

Officials told to accord top priority to tourist safety and strengthen preventive mechanisms along the river stretch

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Following a series of drowning incidents at the popular Balmuri tourist spot in Srirangapatna taluk, the Mandya district administration has stepped up safety measures, banning entry to the Cauvery river and swimming at identified danger zones.

Deputy Commissioner Kumar, who chaired a meeting in Mandya on Monday to discuss precautionary measures, directed officials to accord top priority to tourist safety and strengthen preventive mechanisms along the river stretch.

A file photo of tourists at Balmuri, a popular tourist destination in Srirangapatna taluk of Mysuru district.

Coracles

Stating that recurring fatalities had raised serious concerns, he said entry into the river at Balmuri and nearby hazardous locations has been strictly prohibited. The use of unsafe coracles has also been banned. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the Police Department, Tourism Department and Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited to jointly implement safety measures to prevent further loss of lives. A committee comprising officials from the Tourism Department, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, the taluk administration and the police has been formed to oversee implementation of safety arrangements. Stating that many visitors lose their lives due to a lack of awareness about water depth, strong currents and hidden whirlpools, Dr. Kumar directed the officials to install prominent warning and information boards at vulnerable locations along the riverbank. The administration also plans to deploy Home Guards to guide tourists, install CCTV cameras and use public address systems to issue safety announcements.

Local farmers will be sensitised to immediately alert the police if tourists are found entering dangerous zones or areas known for deep waters and whirlpools.

Mandya Superintendent of Police Shobharani said that the Home Guards would be deployed along the riverbank to warn tourists, while police personnel would maintain continuous vigil in the Balmuri area.

Officials from the Tourism Department, Cauvery Neeravari Nigam and the police attended the meeting.

Missing man found dead; toll in Bhatkal tragedy rises to 11

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The toll in the Kallinatti stream tragedy in Bhatkal of Uttara Kannada has gone up to 11 with another body of a victim being found at a distance from the site of the incident on Monday morning.

The deceased has been identified as 52-year-old Madeva Jattappa Naik.

After post-mortem, the body was handed over to the family, the police said.

In all, 14 people entered Kalinatti stream to collect shellfish near Shirali on Sunday.

However, they were swept away because of a sudden rush of water.

As many as 10, including eight from an extended family, drowned and the bodies were retrieved by rescue personnel.

Madeva went missing and the body was found on Monday.

Only 3 survived

Only three among them have survived the tragedy as fishermen and others who were nearby rescued them.

Elephant calf found dead near Sullia in DK

The elephant calf which was found dead at Adtale, Aranthodu village, near Sullia in Dakshina Kannada on Monday.

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

An elephant calf was found dead in Adtale Bedrupane of Aranthodu village near Sullia of Dakshina Kannada on Monday.

The body of the one-year-old female elephant was found on a farmland in the morning. It had multiple injuries. A herd of wild elephants barged into farmlands in the same area on Sunday night and destroyed crops.

Forest Department officials suspect that the calf was part of the herd and it might have been attacked by a male elephant in the group or an elephant which was not part of the herd. Officials said that veterinary doctors who conducted the post-mortem examination said that the calf had injury marks scattered all over its body and that internal injuries had caused bleeding, blood clots and damage to its organs. Its body was buried in the area after post-mortem.

Digital arrest scam: Accused linked to ₹15 cr. Belagavi cyber fraud case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The six inter-State cyber fraud suspects arrested in connection with the ₹24 crore "digital arrest" scam involving a 74-year-old retired teacher in Bengaluru have also been found linked to another ₹15 crore cyber fraud case in Belagavi, officials of the Karnataka State Cyber Command said on Monday.

According to them, two of the arrested accused – Palak Bhai Patel and Amit Narendra Patel from Ahmedabad, Gujarat – are allegedly involved in a similar digital arrest fraud registered with the Cyber Crime Police Station (CCPS) in Belagavi city. The Belagavi police have obtained body warrants against the duo, who are currently in the custody of the Bengaluru City Cyber Crime Police for further investigation.

The case is said to be the biggest "digital arrest" cyber fraud in the State. GETTY IMAGES

The Bengaluru City Cyber Crime Police arrested six persons, identified as N. Sivagnanam from Erode, Tamil Nadu; Akkach Mallick from Mumbai, Maharashtra; Palak Bhai Patel from Ahmedabad, Gujarat; Amit Narendra Patel from Ahmedabad, Gujarat; Om Prakash Rajput from New Delhi; and Gaurav Kumar from Bihar, in connection with what is said to be the biggest "digital arrest" cyber fraud in the State as the victim lost ₹24 crore.

The police said the victim was allegedly trapped by fraudsters posing as senior officials of the CBI and Enforcement Directorate. The accused reportedly placed her under "digital arrest" and forced her to transfer ₹24 crore from her ICICI Bank account over a period of nearly two months. The victim transferred the money through 26 transactions into 23 mule bank accounts linked to 10 different banks across the country between February 10 and April 24. Further investigation revealed that Sivagnanam is allegedly involved in four other cyber fraud cases, while Akkach Mallick is linked to three additional cybercrime cases. The officials said that ₹1.46 crore has been recovered so far, while another ₹1.40 crore is under the recovery process. The police are continuing investigations to trace the remaining suspects and uncover the larger interstate cyber fraud network involved in digital arrest scams.

WHEN CONFLICTS BRING UNCERTAINTY
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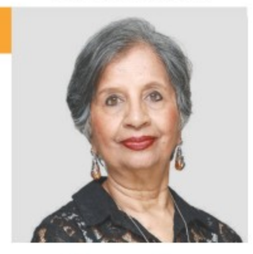
Dr. K. G. Arunraj
Health Minister, Tamil Nadu, and General Secretary for Policy, TVK



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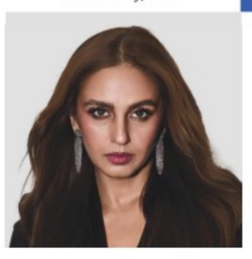

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A BG-BGE

Intense speculation as CM, DKS head to Delhi for meeting today

State Congress general secretary in-charge says the meeting aims to discuss elections to Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The much-awaited call from New Delhi to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar summoning them for a meeting with the Congress high command on Tuesday set off speculation over the possibility of a leadership change or a Cabinet reshuffle.

However, the party's General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala insisted that the meeting aims to discuss the impending elections to the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Council.

The Congress government in Karnataka celebrated completion of three years in office last week.

What is on agenda?

Confusion over the agenda of the meeting intensified despite Mr. Surjewala's statement and his appeal for a thaw in speculation since Rajya Sabha elections had been notified. The Chief Minister, while confirming the call from Congress General Secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, said he was not aware of the agenda and would attend the meeting on Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Mr. Shivakumar, who had maintained in the morning that he would go to New Delhi only if called, confirmed in the afternoon that he had been summoned too. "When the party calls, I have to go," he had said initially. Asked if the leadership issue would be discussed, he said, "I don't know, and I do not want to comment on it." Later in the day, he said he would go to Delhi as Special Intensive Revision (SIR), among other things, is on the agenda. He flew to Delhi on Monday night.

Elections to Rajya Sabha are scheduled for June 18. The Congress is likely to win three out of four seats that will fall vacant in Karnataka. Congress President Mallikarjun M. Kharge, who is among those retiring, refused to comment about the agenda.

Sources close to the Chief Minister said that the meeting follows his earlier request to discuss a Cabinet reshuffle. It is learnt that he had sought a meeting with Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi when he met him during the swearing-in ceremony of Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan.

Interestingly, while the Chief Minister's camp is pushing for the Cabinet reshuffle, which is speculated to cement his place, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Monday reassigned the Planning and Statistics department to K. Venkatesh, Animal Husbandry and Sericulture Minister. D. Sudhakar, who had held the portfolio, passed away recently.

"If the Chief Minister is seeking a Cabinet reshuffle, why would he re-assign the portfolio now? The portfolio does not require immediate attention. Also, why would he take Ministers to Delhi when he is called for a meeting by the Congress high command?" a source questioned.

Despite accompanying the Chief Minister, among many others, Dr. Parameshwara told presspersons, "We are not aware of the agenda but we are going with the Chief Minister. We will know the agenda when we go there."

Many to be dropped?

He indicated that Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council elections are likely to be discussed along with Cabinet reshuffle. Sources close to the Chief Minister indicated that 10 to 12 Cabinet Ministers are likely to be dropped over performance, caste, and regional combination factors. Legislators aspiring for a Cabinet berth are likely to go to New Delhi after the Chief Minister's visit, sources said. The Chief Minister has been pushing for a Cabinet reshuffle for the past six months.

One of the senior legislators aspiring to join the Cabinet said that it was a "crucial time" for the party to take decisions since the next Assembly election is less than two years away. "Hopefully, the meeting would end all speculations and focus could move on to governance," he said.

The Congress government in the State marked three years in office last week. FILE PHOTO

Leaders' supporters in tow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Adding to the political drama, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah took an entourage of Ministers, seen to be favourable to him, to New Delhi on Monday night. Many from the D.K. Shivakumar camp are also said to be in the national capital.

Among them were Home Minister G. Parameshwara, Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh, Energy Minister K.J. George, and Industries Minister M.B. Patil.

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, who also counts Mr. Siddaramaiah as his leader in the AHINDA camp, flew independently to New Delhi. Mr. Shivakumar's brother D.K. Suresh is also there.

'Leaders who missed SIR meet will be stripped of posts'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With a number of Congress office-bearers not attending 'Congress March Towards Vote Protection', the two-day conclave on Special Intensive Revision (SIR) held in Bengaluru on Sunday and Monday, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar said those who have given the conclave a miss will be stripped of their posts.

"I have been issued directions to remove the office-bearers who have not come. Attendance will be checked and they will be removed. Those not interested in party work will be removed from their post," the Deputy Chief Minister said to presspersons on Monday.

The Congress hosted the conclave to strategise ahead of the commencement of SIR from June 20.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar addressing the 'Congress March Towards Vote Protection' discussion meeting in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The party fears that its voter base will be targeted during SIR for deletion of votes.

Stating that the Congress will not oppose SIR but create awareness about it among people, he said, "We have given responsibilities to leaders and party workers on SIR and GBA elections. All Ministers have been asked to tour their Assembly constituencies compulsorily to meet party workers and Booth Level Agents (BLAs)," he added.

Mr. Shivakumar further said, "The enumeration forms should be filled and submitted compulsorily through the BLAs. The government officials involved in SIR exercise should cooperate and not indulge in politics." He said all legislators and Ministers had been asked to drop other work and focus on SIR.

Nitin Nabin sends BJP State unit into introspective mode

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

BJP national president Nitin Nabin has put the State unit of the party into an introspective mode through his stern message that it needs to pull up its socks if it hopes to return to power in the State.

Since Mr. Nabin returned to Delhi on Monday after his maiden visit to Karnataka, party leaders feel that he reflected the feelings of the cadre by indicating that the organisation has to go a long way to prove itself as a better political alternative.

Mr. Nabin, who had collected information on the party unit through national joint general secretary (organisation) Shiv Prakash, who had held one-on-one interactions with a large number of party leaders ahead of his visit, told the party in no uncertain words that it needs to pick up momentum to be ready for the 2028 Assembly polls.

Sending a message of unity to the party State unit, which has been gripped by groupism for over a decade, he asked the leaders to protect the interests of the organisation rather than individuals.

BJP national president Nitin Nabin at the BJP party office in Bengaluru on Sunday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Importance of SIR

Mr. Nabin sought to highlight the importance of the proposed SIR and made it clear that the party cadre had the responsibility of actively participating in the process to ensure that its support base did not face the axe.

Contrary to the feeling in the principal Opposition party that it will be the "natural beneficiary" of a series of "failures" of the Congress government, Mr. Nabin told the party leaders that this alone will not help take the BJP to victory. He sought to send a message that they could capitalise on the failure of the government only if they project themselves as an effective alternative through constant pro-people struggles.

'Prepare action plan'

Indicating that the party State unit is not very active on the ground, the BJP national president asked the party to prepare an action plan against the failures of the government. It may be noted that several leaders within the party have been lamenting that the party has not been able to take its fight on several alleged scams and irregularities in the Congress government to a logical end. Mr. Nabin reportedly indicated that the party organisation suffered from a lack of coordination.

Several leaders of the party are of the view that the message by the national president could not have come at a better time than now, when the ruling Congress is gripped by a leadership tussle. "The national president's message has clearly shown that the party high command is now watching its State unit," observed a leader.

State to increase egg distribution coverage in schools

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The distribution of eggs as supplementary nutrition to children in government and aided schools is being done only to the extent of 50% to 60%, respectively, and the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has decided to increase this to 90% in the year 2026-27.

The DSEL has instructed officials to create awareness among students about the benefits of egg consumption, and has ordered that the target of 80% egg distribution should be achieved by September 2026.

Aid from APF

The State government had earlier been distributing eggs and bananas as supplementary nutrition two days a week along with midday meals to students from LKG to class 10 in all government and aided primary and high schools in the State to prevent malnutrition and anaemia. With the support and financial assistance of Azim Premji Foundation (APF), eggs/bananas are being provided to students on six days of the week since September 2024-25.

The DSEL has instructed that schools should organise special sessions on 'Benefits of Eggs'.

However, despite clear directives of the government, bananas are being distributed instead of eggs because of rising egg prices, and even when students demand eggs, they are not being distributed, as was observed during surprise visits to schools by a team from the School Education Department and APF.

"It is mandatory to provide eggs as supplementary nutrition along with midday meals for six days of the week, with parental consent. At the beginning of the academic year, parental consent of all students and newly admitted students should be obtained," reads the order.

'Increase awareness'

The DSEL has instructed that schools should organise special sessions on 'Benefits of Eggs' using Information Education Communication (IEC) materials. It recommends that posters be displayed and sessions on the nutritional value of eggs be conducted by the nutrition officer or local doctor.

"Schools should conduct awareness sessions on the benefits of eggs in parent meetings and community-based school programmes," the order further said.

Review meetings should be held every month at the block and district levels by the Block Education Officer and Deputy Director of Public Instruction, respectively, to ensure strict implementation of the egg distribution programme, the order added, with School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs) playing an active role.

The order states that the monthly attendance of students, the number of students consuming eggs and bananas, and the amount of eggs and bananas purchased should be maintained in the Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS) portal.

Toyota BizIntel Hub to come up at KWIN City with ₹1,200 cr. investment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the first major investment to materialise at KWIN City in Bengaluru, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) will establish its global-standard BizIntel Hub. KWIN City is being developed by the State government between Dobbspet and Doddaballapur, with an investment of ₹1,200 crore from TKM.

The agreement was signed on Monday by Principal Secretary of the Industries Department S. Selvakumar and Toyota's COO and director of special projects Sudeep Dalvi. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil were present. The Chief Minister announced that this would be the first facility of its kind in the world.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Industries Minister M.B. Patil during the signing of an MoU between the government and Toyota Kirloskar Motor to set up a 'BizIntel Hub' at KWIN City in Bengaluru.

Mr. Patil said the company will invest ₹1,200 crore as initial capital over the next five years, generating around 200 jobs. About 300 acres of land will be allotted to Toyota for the project. Vehicle manufacturing, testing activities, and the establishment of an advanced automobile manufacturing facility will all be undertaken there.

Seven to eight globally reputed universities, healthcare institutions and research organisations have expressed interest in investing, and agreements with them too would be finalised at the earliest.

KWIN City will be developed in phases across 5,800 acres, with the first phase already in progress. Mr. Patil said the overall project is expected to attract investments worth ₹48,000 crore and generate nearly one lakh jobs.

K. Venkatesh

Venkatesh gets Planning and Statistics portfolio

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah allocated the Planning and Statistics portfolio to K. Venkatesh, Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture, on Monday. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, on the advice of Mr. Siddaramaiah, has re-allocated the portfolio, which had come to the Chief Minister after the death of D. Sudhakar, who held the portfolio.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients are desirous of purchasing all that piece and parcel of residential site bearing No.275 with 4 Bed Room House constructed thereon situated at 3rd 'A' Cross, 4th Main, Domlur 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560071 morefully described in the Schedule hereto and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Property" from its owner Mr. VIKRAM.G.SHAH residing at Villa No.521, Embassy Grove, Rustam Bagh Main Road, Behind Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, Kodihalli, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560017 (**Owner**). Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the owners or objecting to such transactions with our clients should write to the undersigned within **ten days (10 days)** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIJAYA W/O Umesh Rathod R/O Ekamba Tq Aurad B, Khira Bai Thanda, Ekamba, Dist. Bidar (Karnataka) have changed my name to VIJAYALAXMI forever.

I, SATHYA.N, D/o Narendra Kumar & Vali, R/o No.351, 8th Main Road, Ramachandrappa Layout, Lingarajapuram, Bangalore-560084 have changed my name to Faiza vide affidavit dt: 22.05.2026 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, B'lore.

I, MOHANAN, residing at No. C1, Ground Floor, Ind Wins Glo Apt, No. 5, 1st Cross, Wind Tunnel Road, Murugeshpalya, Bengaluru-560 017 have changed my name from Mohanan to Mohanan K vide affidavit date 23-05-2026 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed

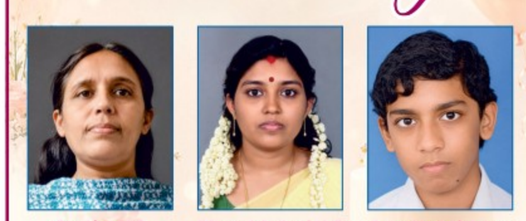
LOST & FOUND

THIS IS to inform the general public that, I, Litty Babu, have lost my Nursing Registration certificate issued by the Karnataka State Nursing Council for the BSc Nursing course. Name: Litty Babu, Date of Birth: 30th April, 1995, Name of the Institute: Government College of Nursing, Holenarasipura, Hassan. Registration Certificate Number: 80444, Date of loss: 12.05.2025, Place of loss: near Arekere bus stop, Bengaluru. Hence, applying for duplicate certificate from the Karnataka State Nursing Council.

XPRESSIONS

GREETINGS

May God always provide you Health, Wealth and Peace.
Happy Birthday


Geetha K G | Dhanalakshmi K G | Ananthakrishnan
Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore

With love and best wishes :
Col. K.R. Panicker & Family
Captain Dr. Usha Panicker MD, Endocrinology, USA
Indrajit Panicker, Research Chemist Diary Farm, Switzerland
Vijayan Panicker, Aircraft Engineer, Melbourne
Leela Panicker, Bangalore

97445 33302, 90488 16433

INBRIEF

Fire at hill near Naidu's camp office brought under control

A forest fire that broke out in the hilly terrain of Undavalli in Amaravati in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday night was brought completely under control, with officials urging local residents not to panic as precautionary measures remain in place. This area is close to the camp office of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The fire and emergency personnel rushed to the spot with fire engines immediately after receiving information about the incident.

Leopard cub rescued at veterinary varsity in Tirupati

A nearly one-year-old female leopard was rescued from a toilet at S.V. Veterinary University (SVVU) Clinical Complex on Monday morning. It was then shifted to the Animal Rescue Centre at S.V. Zoological Park in Tirupati for observation and further care. "All protocols have been followed to ensure the safety of the animal and the personnel involved. The animal is being closely monitored by the veterinary team," S.V. Zoological Park Curator Anurag Meena said.

Doctor does surgery from Wuhan on Hyderabad patient

Dr. Syed Mohammed Ghouse, robotic surgeon at the Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology (AINU) in Hyderabad, remotely performed a robotic ureteric reimplant procedure on May 18, on a Hyderabad patient diagnosed with lower ureteric stricture while he was physically present at Tongji Hospital in Wuhan, China. The patient was prepared for the surgery by the team in Hyderabad, then Dr. Ghouse took over and controlled the robotic system in real time.

Waqf Board complicating Munambam issue: Kerala CM

Waqf Board chairman says board complied with Centre's directive; V.D. Satheesan promises protection for the affected families of Munambam and says not a single resident would be evicted

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan on Monday accused the Kerala State Waqf Board, constituted during the previous government's tenure, of "deliberately trying to complicate and derail attempts" by the United Democratic Front (UDF) administration to resolve the Munambam land issue swiftly in Ernakulam district of Kerala.

His response follows the Waqf Board's action of completing the registration of the controversial land on the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development (UMEED) portal.

Residents of Munambam in Kerala's Ernakulam forming a human chain demanding revenue rights for their land holdings. H. VIBHU

"Ordinarily, it is the Muthavalli who is required to register the Waqf property on the UMEED portal. But in this case, the Waqf Board itself has taken the initiative. What we can understand from this is it is a deliberate attempt to pit two communities against each other," the Chief Minister said. He promised that "not a single resident" would be evicted from Munambam and promised complete protection for the affected families, while also facilitating the payment of land tax by them.

Waqf Board chairman K.S. Hamsa hit back sharply, insisting that the board had merely complied with the directions issued by the Centre. "The board holds the authorities of Farook College responsible for misleading them and illegally selling the property. It is the duty of the Waqf Board to ensure that every property is registered. Since the Muthavalli of Farook College was not expected to register the land, we took the initiative ourselves," he explained.

'Needless fuss': Satheesan defends posting former Kerala poll officer as his Secretary

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan has said that "a needless fuss" is being made over the decision to appoint Indian Administrative Service officer Rathan U. Kelkar, till recently Chief Electoral Officer of the State, as his Secretary.

Briefing presspersons in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday on the decisions taken by the Cabinet, Mr. Satheesan said neither the Communist Party of India (Marxist), which was in power then, nor the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had found fault with Mr. Kelkar's service as CEO. The only complaints were made from his own office as the then Leader of the Opposition. And even those were not targeted at Mr. Kelkar at a personal level, he said.

Moreover, the appointment cannot be equated with the appointments in West Bengal where the Trinamool Congress, the Congress and the CPI(M) had levelled serious charges against the CEO after the large-scale elimination of names from the electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision, Mr. Satheesan said.

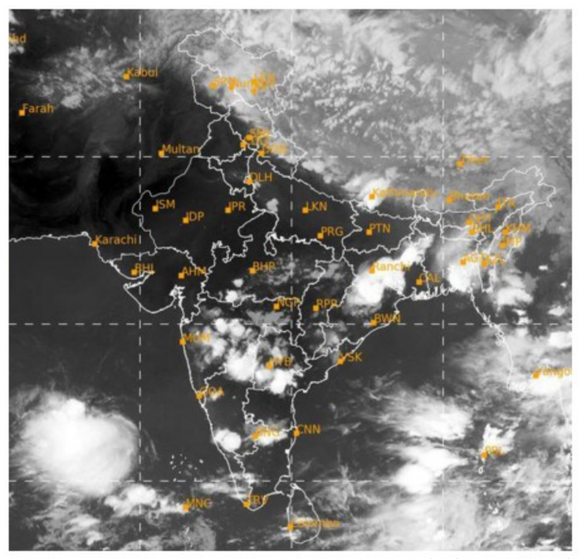
In Kerala, no such complaints were levelled against the CEO by the Opposition, which at the time, was the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF).

"What exactly is the basis of this controversy? He (Mr. Kelkar) is an All India Service officer posted in Kerala. The Election Commission of India selects an officer from the panel submitted by the State government to be appointed CEO for conducting the election. After the election, does the official life of the officer come to an end?" Mr. Satheesan asked.

Mr. Kelkar is "an efficient officer with a good track record" in departments, including Information Technology, Environment, Planning and Economic Affairs and Taxes, the Chief Minister said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	36	31.6	23.0	Kozhikode	0.3	34.8	26.2
Ahmedabad	—	43.0	28.4	Kurnool	27	39.4	23.3
Aizawl	7.4	32.4	21.2	Lucknow	—	42.3	28.6
Allahabad	—	45.4	29.0	Madurai	—	37.8	26.7
Bengaluru	—	34.0	20.8	Mangaluru	—	32.1	24.1
Bhopal	—	43.4	29.6	Mumbai	—	35.1	29.4
Bhubaneswar	—	38.3	29.1	Mysuru	—	32.8	21.0
Chandigarh	—	42.4	26.6	New Delhi	—	43.5	32.4
Chennai	—	41.3	30.3	Patna	—	38.2	28.2
Coimbatore	11	34.0	20.8	Port Blair	12	31.5	26.0
Dehradun	—	40.4	24.6	Puducherry	—	37.3	22.4
Gangtok	39	22.2	15.1	Pune	—	37.0	24.2
Goa	7	33.6	25.8	Raipur	—	45.1	30.0
Guwahati	7	29.0	22.6	Ranchi	—	39.8	26.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	24.0	Shillong	3	23.0	16.5
Hyderabad	—	42.2	29.7	Shimla	—	33.0	22.0
Imphal	2	30.5	20.5	Srinagar	1	23.3	13.0
Jaipur	—	43.6	30.4	Thiruvananthapuram	2	31.9	25.0
Kochi	64	29.6	25.0	Tiruchi	1	37.3	24.6
Kohima	—	25.0	17.0	Vijayawada	—	45.0	31.5
Kolkata	—	36.5	30.1	Visakhapatnam	—	36.0	30.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	10	38	43	103	
Bengaluru	5	24	52	58	114	
Chennai	6	14	30	46	62	
Delhi	21	77	27	214	366	
Hyderabad	16	15	34	61	92	
Kolkata	8	23	22	66	102	
Lucknow	9	46	49	147	117	
Mumbai	53	43	15	41	50	
Pune	—	32	100	17	44	
Visakhapatnam	10	25	13	40	118	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Charkhi Dadri, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 392 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Court directs women vendors to do social service for blocking tourists

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Five women vendors were fined and ordered to perform social service by a Hyderabad court after being booked for allegedly obstructing tourists on the main road leading to the historic Charminar and Mecca Masjid.

According to the Charminar Police, the women were repeatedly found selling artificial flower items on the pedestrian stretch between Gulzar Houz and Charminar, a route designated for tourists visiting the heritage sites.

The accused were identified as Anju Singh, 19, Sabi Devi, 38, Manu Devi, 43, Manisha, 20, and Shakuntala, 36.

The Charminar Police said strict action will be taken against those encroaching on pedestrian pathways. SIDDHANT THAKUR

The police said the women are natives of Alwar in Rajasthan and are currently residing at Nandanavanam near TKR Kaman in Meerpet.

The police said despite repeated warnings and requests to clear the pathway, the vendors allegedly continued their activities on the road, causing obstruction to pedestrian movement.

Following this, the Charminar Police booked petty cases against them on May 23 under Section 66C of the City Police Act and Section 292 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The five women were produced before the First Special Judicial Magistrate court on Monday. The court imposed a fine of ₹200 on each woman and directed them to perform social service at the Charminar police station until 5 p.m. on Monday.

The Station House Officer of Charminar police station said strict action would continue against those encroaching on pedestrian pathways and roads in the heritage zone.

Land acquisition for Reliance Data Centre turning into tough task

The Hindu Bureau
VIZIANAGARAM

Land acquisition for the proposed Reliance Data Centre at Bhogapuram and the greenfield steel plant of Super Smelters Limited near Gurla turned into a major challenge for the government, with resistance from locals for those projects.

As the government does not have its own lands in those places, it was forced to acquire private lands. It has become a Herculean task for the officials to convince residents that both projects would create a lot of economic activity and employment opportunities for youngsters in the region.

Vizianagaram Collector S.Ramsundar Reddy. FILE PHOTO

Recently, the State government decided to allocate 855 acres of land in Vizianagaram district to enable Reliance Industries Limited to set up its Data Centre and Cable Landing Station with an estimated cost of ₹1 lakh crore.

Several farmers from Polipalli, Bhogapuram and the surrounding areas urged the government to withdraw its proposal to acquire agricultural lands for the Project and to withdraw GO no. 30, which was issued for the land acquisition for the Reliance Data Centre.

Ire against steel plant

Similarly residents of Gurla mandal have been objecting to give away their lands for the green field steel plant project. Super Smelters Limited Company proposed to invest around ₹8,000 crore for the project. However, the residents, who had vehemently opposed the project, submitted several representations to the officials and staged protests near the Collector's office.

Vizianagaram Collector S. Ramsundar Reddy and Joint Collector S. Sedhu Madhavan urged residents to extend their support to ensure a better future for thousands of people. They stated that the government will ensure decent compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013.

A senior official said that the farmers would get a decent financial package, houses, and jobs for eligible family members.

He hoped that the farmers would come forward very soon to cooperate with the government, which had ensured the best package for the farmers who had given land for the construction of the international airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district.

Probe into girl's sexual assault, murder expedited

Wilson Thomas
COIMBATORE

The police have expedited the investigation into the sexual assault-cum-murder of a 10-year-old girl near Sulur in Combatore district, aiming to submit the chargesheet within a month.

Inspector-General of Police (West Zone) R.V. Ramya Bharathi convened a meeting with Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Coimbatore Range) P. Saminathan, Coimbatore District (Rural) Superintendent of Police Allatipalli Pavan Kumar Reddy, Additional SP M. Vivekanandan and members of the investigating team on Monday.

The investigating team comprises Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Karikal Pari Shankar, two male Inspectors, three women Inspectors, and 10-15 Sub-Inspctors. Perur DSP S. Suresh will assist Mr. Shankar. The progress will be reviewed on a daily basis, she said.

The police are awaiting the postmortem and viscera analysis reports. A potency test is likely to be conducted on the main accused, K. Karthi, 33.

8 years on, Madhu's lynching still pricks Kerala's conscience

Abdul Latheef Naha
PALAKKAD

The lynching of Madhu, a 27-year-old tribal man from Chindakki hamlet in Attappady, remains one of the darkest stains on Kerala's human rights record. More than eight years after the brutal mob killing on February 22, 2018, the case continues to prick the conscience of the State.

Madhu's lynching over allegations of stealing food had triggered outrage across the country and exposed the vulnerability of tribal communities to mob violence and systemic discrimination.

Madhu – son of Mallan and Malli – was a poor, mentally challenged tribal youth, who had studied up to Class VII. The youth, who lived in isolation in a cave inside the Attappady forest, was accused of stealing rice and groceries from shops at nearby Mukkali junction.

According to the prosecution, a man collecting firewood spotted Madhu in the cave and alerted local people. A group then entered the forest, dragged him out, tied his hands with a lungi, placed a sack on his head and forced him to walk nearly four kilometres to Mukkali.

Case records say Madhu was brutally beaten during the march and again at the junction, where he was publicly humiliated and interrogated. Images and videos of the assault, including selfies taken by members of the mob with the injured youth, were widely circulated on social media, shocking the country. He was later handed over to the police but died while being taken to Agali police station.

Then Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan interacting with family members of tribal youth Madhu, in this 2018 photo. K. K. MUSTAFAH

The prosecution said he died of internal injuries sustained in the assault. The post-mortem examination found extensive trauma, including fatal injuries to the back of the head, fractured ribs and 42 wounds on his body.

16 accused

Sixteen persons were arraigned as accused in the case. On May 22, 2018, the Special Investigation Team filed a 3,000-page chargesheet before the SC/ST Special Court at Mannarkkad, charging them with murder and invoking provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

All 16 accused were granted bail by the High Court on May 31, 2018. The trial began only four years later after the High Court intervened over delays. Hearing started before the Mannarkkad court on January 25, 2022. Of the 124 witnesses listed, the prosecution examined 103 and the defence, eight. While 77 supported the prosecution, 24 turned hostile during the trial.

Madhu's mother and sister later approached the government seeking stronger prosecution, leading to the appointment of Rajesh M. Menon as special prosecutor. His intervention proved pivotal to the case. The prosecution implemented the Witness Protection Scheme, which exposed alleged links between some accused and witnesses. The court then cancelled the bail of the accused to curb intimidation and prevent further witnesses from turning hostile.

The Mannarkkad court found 14 of the 16 accused guilty and acquitted two.

The High Court on Monday acquitted the first accused, Mecheri Hussain of Pakkulam, while upholding the trial court verdict against the remaining accused. Madhu's family is planning to move Supreme Court against the exoneration of Mr. Hussain.

From black to grey

India needs to prepare for a future with an ageing population

If India wanted proof of its shifting demographic status, then the latest SRS bulletin, 2024 has provided just that. The figures from the Sample Registration System - Statistical Report, 2024, offer incontrovertible proof – falling fertility rate, low crude birth rate – to show that India's pace of population growth is considerably slowing down. While the pundits predict at least three decades of population growth for the country, the plunging fertility rate certainly commands pause for contemplation and forward planning, for India to crest a crisis that several nations are struggling to manage. India's Total Fertility Rate has dropped to 1.9, lower than the replacement level of 2.1, aided, in large, by a falling birth rate. As per the latest SRS data, India's birth rate fell from 21 in 2014 to 18.3 in 2024; while death rate marginally went down from 6.7 to 6.4. The country is well on its way from population 'explosion' to one of ageing population and shrinking workforce expansion. India might still reap its demographic dividend – the median age in India is 29.2 years, in stark contrast to China (median age of 40.2), and several other European nations. In 2026, India has approximately 370 to 380 million youth, aged 15-29 years, representing roughly 27 % of the country's population. Estimates also put India's below 35 years population at over 65% of the total, making it one of the world's youngest cohorts.

In demographic terms, falling birth rate reflects a decline in fertility, linked to factors such as urbanisation, better education, access to contraception, and the desire for smaller families. India's high life expectancy at birth (72 years) and dipping death rate offer the other side of the transition paradigm, implying better access to health care. India needs to reassess the path ahead and pivot to prepare for the needs of a future greying nation, when the demographic dividend disappears. The SRS data, however, flags a more immediate concern too – one of vast regional and rural/urban disparities. Overall, performance in rural areas is not on a par with the urban centres, and the southern States continue to stay ahead of the northern States. Overall, child survival improvements are real (the Infant Mortality Rate has fallen to 24) but high-burden States in the north are still at a much higher IMR. States and areas that lag will need targeted interventions, whether it is access to health care, awareness or education facilities to effect a national convergence.

Baby bait

Incentives for having more children will keep poorer women out of workforce

Departing from decades of family-planning policies in India, the Andhra Pradesh government has proposed new incentives for families in the State to have three or more children. The State's total fertility rate has dropped from around 3 in the 1990s to 1.5 today, well below the replacement rate of 2.1 as well as the national average. According to some projections, nearly a quarter of the State population will be elderly by the mid-century, resulting in a smaller workforce relative to the old-age dependency burden. But while South India is ageing faster than the North, the evidence for cash incentives leading to larger families and doing so without significant socio-economic trade-offs is weak. At present, Andhra Pradesh has proposed ₹30,000 for a third child and ₹40,000 for a fourth; ₹1,000 monthly for five years; free education until the age of 18; provisions for mothers to work from home; enhanced funding for the 'Thalliki Vandanam' scheme, which currently pays ₹15,000 per child for school attendance; longer maternity leave; and other Anganwadi and childcare support. While one-time payments may encourage some families to have children earlier than planned, evidence from India and around the world indicates that they rarely produce large or sustained increases in fertility.

People in the State are having fewer children likely because housing and private education have become more expensive, stable employment is accessible later rather than sooner, and aspirations around children's quality of life have expanded. The proposed incentives are unlikely to offset the 18-year cost of raising one additional child even under optimistic assumptions about public provisions. The State government has also said that it wants to double women's labour force participation, which is antithetical to having more children with the existing social infrastructure. Indeed, France and the Nordic states were able to maintain this two-pronged success only by investing heavily in universal childcare, flexible working arrangements, paid parental leave, high-quality public schooling, and legal protections against career penalties that mothers are at risk of. Otherwise, as is already prevalent in India, mothers end up absorbing more unpaid care work and cannot enter the workforce. Crucially, the economics of the proposed incentives are more likely to influence poorer households seeking immediate cash, leading to an uncomfortable possibility: the State modestly increasing the size of economically vulnerable families without guaranteeing adequate long-term support for child development. Finally, ecological concerns such as water scarcity, urban congestion, waste management, and recycling will also be tested in the long term. While the southern States are anxious about population-based delimitation, asking families to alter personal decisions about having children to address a problem of constitutional design would be a profound mismatch between instrument and objective.

Finance Commission transfers and equity issue

K.R. Shanmugam

Former Director, Madras School of Economics, and Consultant to the Government of Tamil Nadu

The Finance Commission (FC), constituted under the Constitution, determines the distribution of the Union's gross tax revenues between Centre and States and among the States themselves to address vertical and horizontal fiscal imbalances. Following earlier commissions, the 16th FC has retained the vertical devolution share of 41% for the States and continued to emphasise equity as the guiding principle in determining horizontal transfers.

During consultations with the FC, States raised several concerns regarding the structure of fiscal transfers. Since cesses and surcharges exceeded 15% of gross tax revenues, they should either be included in the divisible pool or capped at around 8%-10%. In addition, the Centre receives substantial non-tax revenues from natural resource extraction, asset monetisation and surplus transfers from the Reserve Bank of India.

States and pressures

States also face mounting fiscal pressures. The COVID-19 pandemic, structural changes introduced by the Goods and Services Tax (and recent rate rationalisation from four rates to two principal rates), and mounting public debt further constrained their fiscal space. Moreover, the growing dominance of Centrally Sponsored Schemes has narrowed their fiscal autonomy (the restructuring of the National Rural Employment Guarantee programme requires States to bear 40% of programme costs), while buoyancy of central taxes has slowed. These factors could reduce the actual transfers to States, leading several States to demand a 50% vertical share.

Another concern is frequent changes in devolution criteria and their assigned weights across successive FCs in order to transfer more resources to fiscally weaker States, making it difficult for States to predict their future shares. Many States called for a reduced weight for the income-distance criterion and suggested adjusting it for purchasing-power differences to better reflect variations in the cost of living.

Over time, the shares of better-performing States have steadily declined compared with those of major beneficiary States. The combined shares of four major beneficiary States – Bihar (including Jharkhand), Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh), Uttar Pradesh (including Uttarakhand) and West Bengal – increased from 42.5% during the Sixth FC period to 51% under the 15th FC. In contrast, the combined share of the four southern States – Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana), Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu – declined from 24.8% to 15.8%, widening the gap to 35.2%. Continued reliance on unconditional equalisation transfers may weaken incentives for revenue mobilisation and fiscal discipline in weaker States. Moreover, rising transfers to poorer States have not eliminated disparities in public expenditure even on basic services. In 2022-23, Bihar spent ₹937 per person on health, against Arunachal Pradesh's ₹10,148 (10.8 times lower), while Bihar's per-student spending on elementary education in 2023-24 was ₹20,282 compared with Sikkim's ₹1,30,498. These gaps show that fiscal transfers alone have not ensured convergence in public service delivery.

Under the 16th Finance Commission, arbitrary weights affect better-performing States

Recommendations of Finance Commission

The 16th FC accepted the Centre's argument that cesses and surcharges cannot be shared because they often finance welfare and infrastructure programmes that indirectly benefit States and retained 41% vertical share. It also abolished revenue-deficit grants as well as sector-specific and State-specific grants and recommended that States discontinue off-budget borrowings, bring all liabilities onto their budgets and maintain fiscal deficits below 3%. These measures could increase short-term fiscal stress for States.

The FC made only modest adjustments to the criteria used by the 15th FC. Income distance received a weight of 42.5%; population 17.5%; area 10%; forest cover 10%; and the demographic criterion – modified by replacing the inverse fertility rate with population growth – 10%. It also introduced States' contribution to national GDP, replacing tax effort, with a 10% weight. However, instead of using actual GSDP shares, the FC applied a square-root transformation to State GSDP shares, with a weight of just 10%, far below the expected 25%. This significantly reduced the advantage of economically stronger States and altered the rankings. Maharashtra's actual GSDP share of 14.23% fell to 8.31% after the transformation, while Tamil Nadu's declined from 9.09% to 6.67% and Karnataka's from 8.95% to 6.59%. At the same time, the shares of many smaller States increased.

Consequently, overall devolution shares of 14 States rose marginally compared with the 15th FC. Karnataka gained the most (0.484 percentage point increase), followed by Kerala (0.457) and Gujarat (0.277). Tamil Nadu saw only a negligible rise, from 4.079% to 4.097%. Meanwhile, the shares of 14 States declined, with Madhya Pradesh experiencing the largest reduction (0.503 percentage points), followed by Arunachal Pradesh (0.403) and Uttar Pradesh (0.32).

From a longer-term perspective, however, disparities remain substantial. Under the 16th FC, the southern States' share has risen slightly to about 17%, while the share of the largest beneficiary States has fallen to just under 50% – a shift of only about 1.2% in favour of the southern States. The balance between equity and efficiency has changed only marginally. Under the 15th FC, efficiency-related criteria accounted for 25% of the weight and equity criteria for 75%; under the 16th FC, this has shifted to 30% and 70%, respectively – an adjustment too small to significantly alter outcomes. Poorer States such as Uttar Pradesh (17.62%), Bihar (9.95%), Madhya Pradesh (7.35%) and West Bengal (7.22%) continue to receive larger shares than fiscally stronger and better-performing States.

Devolutions with alternative schemes

Alternative weighting schemes suggest that the outcomes could have been different. If the FC had assigned a 25% weight to the square root of GDP contribution while reducing the weight of income distance to 27.5%, Karnataka's share would have increased from 4.131% to 4.928%, Maharashtra's from 6.441% to 7.218%, and Tamil Nadu's from 4.097% to 4.867%. Under an equal-weight scheme across the six criteria, their shares would have risen further to 5.544%, 7.845%, and 5.246%, respectively.

Had the FC used actual GSDP share (instead of square root formula) with 10% weight, the devolution shares of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu would have increased to 7.033%, 4.367% and 4.342% respectively. With 25% weight (and 27.5% weight to income distance), they would have increased to 8.698%, 5.517% and 5.478%. With equal weighting scheme, their respective shares might have increased to 8.833%, 5.937% and 5.653%. That is, their respective shares increased by 2.392%, 1.806% and 1.556%.

Given that the 16th FC estimates total vertical transfers of ₹104 lakh crore over the award period, these differences are significant. A 2.392% increase in Maharashtra's share would translate into an additional ₹2.49 lakh crore, or about ₹49,744 crore annually. Karnataka's additional 1.806% share would yield about ₹1.88 lakh crore, or roughly ₹37,565 crore annually. Tamil Nadu's 1.556% increase would amount to approximately ₹1.62 lakh crore, or ₹32,365 crore annually.

In India, unlike other large federations such as Australia and China, States with greater political influence in terms of parliamentary representation are not necessarily the economically stronger ones. Consequently, these States tend to receive higher fiscal transfers. The issue is likely to intensify after delimitation, as governments may have stronger incentives to favour politically influential States. Since the FC's primary objective is to address both vertical and horizontal fiscal imbalances, future FCs should place greater emphasis on fiscal capacity and fiscal outcome indicators rather than relying predominantly on non-fiscal indicators. Additionally, they should adopt more data-driven approaches for assigning weights, such as the principal component analysis method.

The views expressed are personal

India and Australia – bridging the trade and trust barrier

Vaibhav Jain

Incoming delegate of the Australia-India Youth Dialogue

Raja Karthikeya

Former delegate of the Australia-India Youth Dialogue

Is a comprehensive India-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in the offing? With the Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong in India for the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting, there is anticipation that a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) may be inked. This would expand the 2022 Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) that had opened 100% of the Australian market to India while India reciprocated with roughly 70% market access covering nearly 91% of trade value. Canberra has since been pushing for parity, both privately and publicly. Meanwhile the West Asia crisis has forced upon India – in the words of the Chief Economic Adviser – a "balance of payments crisis stress test", making trade expansion and courting investments an urgent necessity for the country.

India has been in a hurry over the past year to conclude trade agreements; geopolitical fragility and the unpredictability of tariff politics have pushed India to sign agreements with the EU, the U.S., New Zealand and the U.K. CECA fits neatly into this larger recalibration.

The problems with Australia

But with Australia, the trade situation is complicated. Since ECTA, bilateral merchandise trade doubled from $12.2 billion in FY 2020-21 to $24.1 billion in FY 2024-25. These gains, however, have not been evenly shared. Australian exports to India account for nearly two-thirds of the bilateral trade.

Even in services, where bilateral trade has crossed $10 billion, Australia's higher education sector alone accounts for close to 60%. In contrast, investment tells the opposite story: as of 2024, Indian investment in Australia had touched nearly $32 billion against Australia's cumulative FDI into India of about $18 billion.

The bilateral relationship is thus beset by interconnected problems. Australia wants parity in market access. But the question for India is not whether India should simply concede more market access; it is whether India can trade some market access for a more balanced overall relationship. Australia's 2025 Economic Engagement Roadmap for India identified four bilateral 'superhighways': clean energy, education, tourism, and agribusiness. On the first three, there appears to be broad alignment but not on the fourth. Agriculture is where this bargain becomes most difficult. India has restricted access to its agricultural market in nearly all its major trade agreements. Despite being compelled to keep India's most vulnerable sectors (dairy, wheat, rice, sugar and chickpeas) outside ECTA, Australian farm exports to India have risen by nearly 90%, while Indian agricultural exports to Australia have grown more modestly by 35%.

An India-Australia trade deal must prioritise balance over parity

This asymmetry reflects two very different agricultural realities. The average Indian farm is about 0.73 hectares; the average Australian farm exceeds 1,400 hectares. Agriculture contributes around 16% to India's GDP and 2.5% to Australia's. For Australia, agriculture is an export industry. For India, it is a livelihood that supports more than half of its population and remains the bedrock of its food security.

The notion of a "level playing field" between these two systems is hence a misframing of the problem. Indian farmers, even with subsidised inputs, remain structurally exposed to monsoon variability, fragmented landholdings and thin margins. Protecting the Indian market from cheap Australian imports, particularly wheat, is not a negotiating position; it is a political necessity. Yet, given the industrial scale of Australia's farming, Canberra will understandably push India to open up its market fully.

Using agriculture as an opportunity

Nonetheless, agricultural trade talks between the two countries need not become a zero-sum game. Agriculture can become the sector through which India converts Australia's demand for market access into a broader opportunity for institutional cooperation and investment. Two low-hanging fruits stand out.

First, the future of India-Australia agricultural trade must depend less on tariff concessions and more on mutual recognition of biosecurity and phytosanitary standards. Building on the 2025 organic products arrangement, both countries can expand cooperation in digital certification, quarantine protocols and regulatory alignment. This would give Indian farmers a fairer shot at the Australian market even as India considers reciprocal access for Australian farmers.

Second, Australia's strategic opportunity in India may lie beyond agricultural commodities and in exporting the systems that make modern agriculture possible: precision farming technologies, cold-chain infrastructure, water management expertise and climate adaptation practices. India loses anywhere from 15% to 35% of its agricultural output to pests, disease and post-harvest inefficiencies every year. Australia's extensive experience in dealing with drought cycles, heat extremes and water scarcity is knowledge that would interest India.

However, this experience sharing must go hand-in-hand with real investments. Australian capital, technology and know-how must register a deeper presence inside India's agricultural sector – in storage facilities, logistics networks, farm-level tools and agri-technology partnerships between firms, universities and local governments. The recently launched India-Australia Smart Farm Network Initiative points in the right direction.

Need for complementarity

Agriculture is too politically important in India to be treated as just another line item in a trade schedule; equally, it is too economically important to be left outside the bilateral partnership altogether. Rather than making the new FTA one of absolute symmetry in market access alone, India and Australia should make it an agreement based on complementarity across trade and investment.

Should the diplomats succeed, the day when Chyawanprash and Vegemite sit on the same breakfast table in the two countries is not far.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ties bound by respect

India and the United States share strong diplomatic and economic ties, but recent incidents expose double standards and disrespect towards India. While Indian professionals contribute immensely to the U.S. economy, cases of racial remarks, humiliating visa procedures and unfair treatment of Indian students continue to surface. At the same time, America expects India to support its strategic interests and trade priorities.

True friendship between nations must be based on mutual respect, not superiority. The U.S. should understand that today's India is a rising global power with talent, technology and economic strength.

T. Kailash Ditya,
Hyderabad

Missing children

May 25 was "International Missing Children's Day", yet there was not a word about it on most platforms. Greater awareness is needed about this grave and sensitive issue, especially when thousands of children go missing around the world.

Sreelekha P.S.,
Secunderabad

Corrections & Clarifications

The Data Point, "Now, only two young States haven't had a coalition govt." (Opinion Page, May 25, 2026), incorrectly marked Kerala, in Chart 1 for 2004, as having a "single-party" government.

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More letters online. Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Water governance in peri-urban areas

Parameswaran Iyer
Executive Director at the World Bank

Arunabha Ghosh
CEO at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Richard Damania
Chief Economic Advisor in the Planet Vice Presidency of the World Bank. They are the co-authors of 'Water, Nature, Progress: Solutions for a New India'

India's water story has made real progress. The Jal Jeevan Mission has brought tap water to nearly eight out of every 10 rural households. While urban water supply is not without its challenges, at least there is intermittent supply in most towns and cities. However, the images of India's water challenges are shifting. One is the village that still waits for a reliable connection, and the second is the city which floods every now and then due to erratic and heavy rain. In between the two, there is a missing middle – a vast, overlooked landscape which has both challenges and opportunities.

This is India's peri-urban expanse: a zone where farmland and scattered habitations give way to factory sheds, and densely cluttered settlements. Over the last two decades, the number of Census towns has jumped from 1,362 to 3,784, a 178% increase. These are not villages anymore, but neither are they recognised as cities. Nowhere does this institutional limbo exact a higher price than in water and sanitation.

A middle ground

Take, for example, the Rawta village on the edge of Delhi. Residents here receive water through a pipeline at a common collection point, but only on alternate days, and that too between 7 p.m. and midnight. Families sacrifice sleep to fetch water. Private vendors selling water exploit this gap. Or consider Gurugram, where rural governance was abolished and peri-urban areas were placed under the municipal corporation which struggles with administrative inefficiencies. Residents are left with the worst of both worlds: urban prices without urban services.

Moreover, such consequences ripple beyond convenience. In peri-urban Hyderabad, toxic leachate from waste dumps has contaminated groundwater. And when cities grow thirsty, they reach outward. The Bisalpur dam, originally built to irrigate Tonk and Sawai Madhopur, now prioritises Jaipur's growing water demand, leaving downstream farmers to bear the cost. When water moves from rural to urban areas without accountable governance, the peri-urban becomes a zone of sacrifice.

Sanitation tells a similar story. Nearly 40 million urban households rely on on-site systems such as septic tanks. However, desludging is irregular – often only when tanks overflow – and illegal dumping of septage into rivers and open fields is routine. A single 5,000-litre tanker discharging its load into the open undoes the work of thousands of toilets constructed under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

By 2047, the country will need 230 million new housing units and 500 new cities. Today's peri-urban fringe is tomorrow's city centre. Whether we plan for it deliberately or inherit a legacy of chronic challenges is a choice one has to make right now.

A plan of action

That choice requires five clear actions. First, the governance vacuum has to be resolved. State governments must constitute Nagar Panchayats for all Census towns, as the 74th Constitutional Amendment envisioned. Where the transition has already occurred, functional capacity must follow legal reclassification. Small-scale experiments such as the multi-stakeholder platform in Sultanpur village, which brought together engineers, panchayat members and residents, show that accountability can be built when institutions are forced to coordinate. Second, drinking water sources must be secured at their origin itself. The Jal Jeevan Mission succeeded in expanding tap connections, but source sustainability needs relentless focus. This means protecting catchments from encroachment, preventing solid waste dumping, and adopting community-driven sanitary inspections of local water sources, an approach that has already worked in Maharashtra.

Third, there should be a Swachh Bharat Mission 3.0 with an explicit focus on peri-urban sanitation. This mission, ideally housed under the Ministry of Jal Shakti and leveraging rural employment guarantee schemes, should prioritise faecal sludge and septage management. Its priorities should be to build faecal sludge treatment plants where sewage treatment plants are beyond 15-20 km; deploy GPS-equipped desludging trucks to prevent illegal dumping; and introduce mini-cesspool vehicles for narrow lanes, as Berhampur in Odisha has done. Desludging costs, which can range from ₹1,500-₹6,000 per trip, should be folded into monthly water bills through a small sanitation levy.

Fourth, decentralised wastewater treatment technologies should be scaled up. Startups such as Indra Water and Tigreen have built modular, plug-and-play systems that treat used water close to its source, recovering over 95% of water with minimal land and energy use. But these remain at the incubation level. They need clear policy signals, single-window clearances for green industries, public procurement mandates, and government-backed guarantees that create a market for treated used water. Fifth, peri-urban water should be financed as strategic infrastructure. The Uttarakhand model – a blended finance structure combining State risk-bearing with World Bank concessional loans linked to disbursement indicators – offers a template. Similar mechanisms can extend to septage and decentralised treatment.

India's water future will be decided in these zones. Peri-urban India has the numbers, the economic dynamism, and the demographic weight to demand better. If we act now, the missing middle can become the core: dense, thriving, and water-secure.

Views expressed are personal.

India's peri-urban expanse: a zone where farmland and scattered habitations give way to factory sheds, and densely cluttered settlements

A definite end to the Silverline

The new government wants to develop maritime transport as well as a rail line

STATE OF PLAY

S. Anandan

In one of its first decisions, the United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala denotified the controversial Silverline project, which envisaged a standalone semi high-speed standard gauge railway line along the length of Kerala. The project had been on the back burner for some time after the Union government had refused to give it the green signal, prompting the last Left Democratic Front (LDF) government to propose a Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in the run-up to the Assembly elections. Its scrapping, as promised by the UDF in its manifesto, was, therefore, a foregone conclusion.

The Silverline project had been on the wrong track from the very beginning, as there were concerns over the irreversible damage that the line could do to the local ecology. The line was meant to be built largely on the embankments across wetlands, biodiversity hotspots and flood-prone areas. Experts also stated that the estimated cost of the project was grossly underplayed. Calls for broad-based consultations to identify viable alternatives went unheeded, with the State government brazenly pushing ahead with the project, which led to widespread protests, as officials, escorted by the police, began planting yellow stones demarcating the areas to be acquired.

Such apprehensions led the Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad (KSSP) to carry out a comprehensive study of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Silverline initiative. The study concluded that there would be significant adverse

environmental impact, mostly irreversible, which would be detrimental to connected ecosystems. It called for a less capital-intensive project, which would not worsen the State's debt burden, preferably within the existing railway system. "Modernising the signal system and straightening existing and new lines could significantly increase train speeds and reduce travel time. This would reduce the project's cost and ensure interoperability with the Indian Railway system. The Indian Railway has already initiated the process of modernising signals and straightening rail lines with the recent introduction of the Vande Bharat Express, an Indian made semi-high-speed train. It has also begun laying a third line designed for semi-high-speed trains. The DPR should have considered these alternative options, including the possibility of an additional fourth line," the study added.

Alternative projects

Interestingly, the UDF election manifesto moots a high-speed railway corridor, but in collaboration with the Indian Railways. It gets a passing mention in the document, which promises a few other big-ticket projects such as Mission Samudra, which seeks to integrate Kerala's intricate and vast network of canals and waterbodies into a maritime transport network.

It appears to be a feasible proposition provided there is political will. Much water has flowed since the government led by V.S. Achuthanandan laid the groundwork for operationalising the National Waterway-III, with the ambitious dream of first transporting hazardous cargo and then the public at large. However, only smaller sections have been made navigable so far because of a lock gate at Thrikkunnapuzha that is yet to be widened. The reconstruction work is set to be completed soon, and the bottleneck at Chavara would be resolved as well, which will open up the entire west coast canal for goods traffic sometime next year. Besides cargo movers, cruise vessel operators are also keen to ply along the fairway, which will definitely give a fillip to tourism and help decongest the highways.

While the water transport network takes shape, a high-speed rail corridor seamlessly linked to the existing railway lines could serve an entirely different purpose. The enthusiastic patronage for Vande Bharat indicates a need for faster travel along the State's 530-km length. It would not only ease the pressure on the highways, but also deliver economic benefits. Such a rail corridor would make commutes in the State swift, pleasant and efficient, indirectly unburdening cities such as Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram.

However, the new government would do well not to go down the same road as its predecessor. Broad public and expert consultations should be a precursor to these mobility projects, without which the government risks triggering backlash that could stop them in their tracks.

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Deaths caused by lightning have been consistently rising

State-wise trends show that the majority of deaths caused by lightning happened in non-peninsular States

DATA POINT

Serish Nanisetti

Lightning has emerged as the most lethal natural hazard in India, with the number of fatalities rising consistently over the years. A review of reports published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) showed that the country reported a total of 1,02,263 deaths due to lightning in the 50-year-period between 1975 and 2024 **(Chart 1)**. Over half of these deaths happened between 2005 and 2024.

The decennial averages of deaths caused by lightning in the last three decades jumped from 1,683 (1995-2004) to 2,476 (2005-2014) and 2,809 (2015-2024). This is despite India's broader progress in reducing deaths from natural causes, thanks to better forecasting, modelling and disaster preparedness. From 2016, lightning accounted for at least 50% of all deaths due to natural causes while cyclones and floods accounted for fewer **(Chart 2)**. There were 3,315 deaths caused by lightning in 2016, which was the highest ever since 1974, as per the NCRB. In terms of proportion, lightning accounted for the highest share of all deaths due to natural causes in 2021. There were 2,880 deaths due to lightning, which was 70.4% of the 4,091 deaths due to natural causes.

The number of deaths reported due to lightning has never fallen below the 2,000 mark since 2005. The figure crossed the 2,800 mark in six of the eight years between 2017 and 2024. While there were 2,825 deaths in 2024, the latest year for which the data is available, early indications are that the number could go up in 2026. The unseasonal thunderstorm and lightning on May 13, 2026, in eastern and western Uttar Pradesh resulted in at least 111 deaths, many of which were caused by lightning.

State-wise trends show that the majority of deaths caused by lightning happened in non-peninsular States **(Map 1)**. For instance, of the 3,315 deaths reported in 2016, nearly 60% happened in just four States – Madhya Pradesh (639), Jharkhand (542), Uttar Pradesh (384), and Odisha (376). The pattern was similar in 2024 as well. The five States of Madhya Pradesh (577), Bihar (360), Uttar Pradesh (275), Odisha (249) and Chhattisgarh (241) accounted for 60% of the 2,825 deaths reported that year **(Chart 3)**.

A study by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), using the dataset from the Tropical Rainfall Measurement Mission's Lightning Imaging Sensor, showed a clear increasing trend in lightning activity in India over the last two decades. The findings of the study indicated that seasonal variations showed more lightning activity over northwest India during the monsoon season, and northeast India during the pre-monsoon season. "The increase in lightning activity is due to the rise in Convective Available Potential Energy (CAPE), low-level moisture content and temperature. The increase in temperature and moisture is attributed to changes in India's land use and land cover (LULC)," the study said. Kumar Margasahayam, an early warning systems expert, said, "This is a direct result of a warming planet where warmer air and sudden cooling is leading to more convective thunderstorms. This has led to more and frequent thunderstorms and more lightning phenomena."

The India Meteorological Department currently provides thunderstorm forecasts, while the IITM provides real-time alerts on lightning through its mobile application Damini. The app also shares precautionary guidelines during thunderstorms in 23 regional languages, making safety information more accessible. The increasing fatalities emphasise the need for creating more awareness among the public on precautions to be taken during lightning attacks.

Fatal strikes

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Crime Records Bureau's Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India (ADSI) reports

CHART 1: The deaths caused by lightning strikes reported over the years

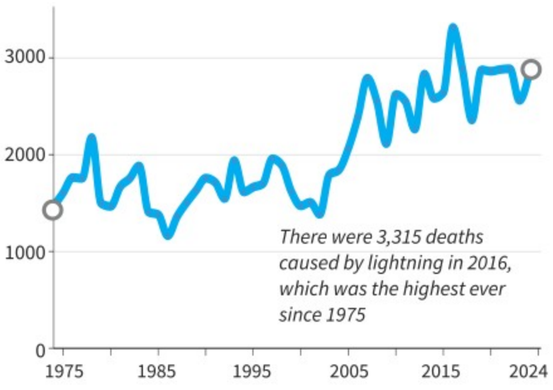


CHART 3: States that accounted for the highest number of deaths due to lightning between 2019 and 2024

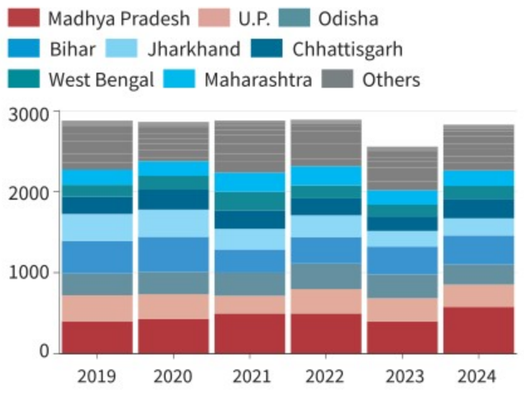
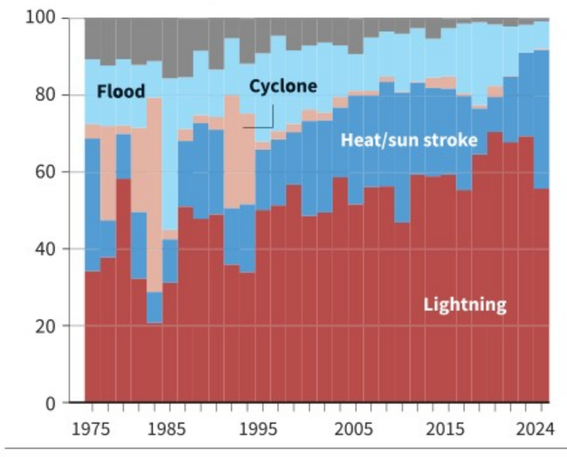
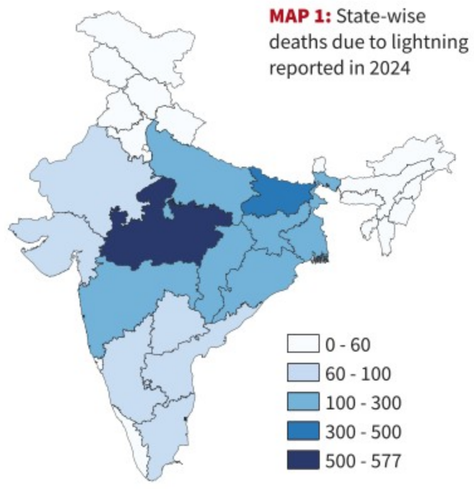


CHART 2: The cause-wise share (in %) of deaths due to forces of nature in the past five decades



MAP 1: State-wise deaths due to lightning reported in 2024



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 26, 1976

Centre to manage sick tea gardens

New Delhi, May 25: Parliament to-day authorised the Union government to take over the management of sick and un-economic tea gardens with the Rajya Sabha passing the Tea (amendment) Bill, 1975.

The Bill, earlier passed by the Lok Sabha, empowered the Centre to order an investigation into the working of a sick tea undertaking and to take decision for liquidation or reconstruction of the taken-over undertaking.

Winding up a brief discussion on the Bill, the Commerce Minister, Mr. D. P. Chattopadhyaya said public sector organisations would be given priority in managing the taken-over-tea undetakings.

Such public sector bodies had adequate expertise in running tea gardens.

Assuring that people responsible for mismanaging the existing tea units would not get any sympathy from the Government, the Minister did not rule our the possibility of allowing some private owners to run the taken-over tea gardens.

The Minister said the multi-national companies handling Indian tea had been requested to export more processed tea in packages.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 26, 1926

Volcano eruption in Japan

Tokio, May 25: Mount Tokachi erupted suddenly with a tremendous roar, which was heard twenty miles away. The inhabitants of Miye town, at the foot of the volcano, fled in panic. The town is seriously endangered and train service to it has been suspended. It is reported that sixty houses have been buried under lava.

One hundred and twenty persons, mostly miners are missing inside the local sulphur mine. A message from Hokkaido says that two thousand farmers are missing as the result of the eruption.

It is reported that 1,000 persons are missing and 200 have been drowned due to water gushing from the ground, as a result of eruption of Mount Tokachi, a dormant volcano at Hokkaido. A message from Hokkaido states that the reports of casualties from the volcano vary considerably, but it is officially learned that 100 bodies have been recovered.

From Page One

SC blames NTA for repeated NEET leaks

A second petition by the United Doctors Front was also heard, which sought the transition of the NTA from a registered society to a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament to ensure constitutional and parliamentary accountability.

For the Supreme Court, the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak was a repetition from 2024 , when over 20 lakh students were affected by a paper leak. The court had, at the time, taken cognisance of the fiasco and heard petitioners over many days. It had finally not cancelled the 2024 exam, reasoning that the leak had been localised.

However, the apex court had acknowledged the need to reform the exam process. It had directed the constitution of a committee headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman K. Radhakrishnan to recommend changes in the way the NTA conducted the crucial annual exam for medical admissions across the country.

The recommendations of the monitoring/high-powered committee included the shift to a computer-based test (CBT) mechanism. Mr. Radhakrishnan has also been asked to file a separate affidavit within the same time period as the NTA on what steps were taken to ensure that the committee's recommendations had been followed.

Fuel prices increase ₹7.5 in 10 days after 4th hike

Price of petrol rose the highest in Kolkata and that of diesel in Mumbai. In Kolkata, petrol was dearer by ₹2.87 per litre, available for ₹113.51 at the pump. The price of diesel in Kolkata jumped by ₹2.80 per litre to ₹99.82.

The price of petrol in Mumbai rose ₹2.72 a litre to ₹111.21 while that of diesel increased by ₹2.81 to ₹97.83.

In Chennai, petrol price was up by ₹2.46 per litre to ₹107.77, while that of diesel jumped ₹2.57 per litre to ₹99.55.

India's OMCs withheld the pressure of high crude oil prices in the backdrop of the conflict in West Asia for about three months before passing it on from May 15 onwards.

Three AIADMK MLAs quit, join ruling TVK

With the resignation of three members and shifting of loyalties of five members, the strength of the rebel faction has now reduced to 17.

Later in the day, the five MLAs called on Mr. Palaniswami at his residence in Chennai.

A party release said the five AIADMK MLAs assured that they would "accept the instructions and advice of Mr. Palaniswami" and discharge their duties both as legislators and party functionaries.

The three AIADMK MLAs who resigned from the Assembly said they took the decision in the "interest of the people in our constituencies" and it was not motivated by any "selfish agenda".

Addressing the media, Ms. Kumaravel said she and the others were unable to do much for their constituencies over the past five years because of the DMK government. "We raised several demands in the Assembly, but were unable to fulfil even 10% of the promises made to the people. Even in this election, people voted for me reposing faith in me. They expected us to fulfil their demands," she said. Asked whether they would contest the bypolls, Ms. Kumaravel said it was for the TVK party leadership to take a decision.

HC acquits first accused in Kerala lynching case

The High Court also noted that this was the first case in Kerala where a tribal man was hunted down, publicly humiliated, and assaulted by a group of persons who believed they were entitled to enforce their own version of community justice on a man. They did not feel that Madhu was worthy of ordinary human dignity

"His death stands as a painful reminder of the continuing distance between constitutional ideals and the lived reality of many among the most marginalised sections of society. The near-total collapse of eyewitness testimony in the present case is one of the most disturbing features of the entire trial, and we record our deep concern regarding the same," said a Division Bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V. and K.V. Jayakumar.

Approximately 75 persons were present at Mukkali junction when Madhu sat tied against the temple treasury box on that afternoon (February 22, 2018). Forest officials, shop employees, roadside traders, and local residents appeared before the court, watched the CCTV footage in open court, and pleaded ignorance when their images and videos came up on the screen and claimed inability to identify the persons involved. The evidence on record established that several accused persons had contacted witnesses during the pendency of the trial, in clear violation of their bail conditions. It was only after the bail of most of the accused was cancelled that a witness, found the courage to depose before the court, the High Court said, adding that witness protection in the country remained deeply inadequate in practice.

(With PTI inputs)

Assam UCC Bill tabled; seeks ban on polygamy

Opposition parties oppose the Bill and demand consultation with all stakeholders; draft legislation excludes Scheduled Tribes from its purview; makes registration of live-in relationships mandatory

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam government on Monday tabled 'The Uniform Civil Code, Assam, 2026 Bill' in the State Assembly, proposing a common law for all residents on matters related to marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships.

Uttarakhand and Gujarat are the two other States that have passed such a law earlier.

Assam Parliamentary Affairs Minister Atul Bora tabled the Bill on behalf of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The MLAs of three Opposition parties opposed the Bill.

"The introduction of the UCC Bill paves the way for an on-record discussion on why it is the need of the hour and how it will help realise the path our founding fathers laid down," the Chief Minister said.

> The introduction of the UCC Bill paves the way for an on-record discussion on why it is the need of the hour and how it will help realise the path our founding fathers laid down
>
> **HIMANTA BISWA SARMA**
> Assam Chief Minister

Under the proposed law, bigamy and polygamy shall invite imprisonment up to seven years under Section 82 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

The Assam UCC Bill, replacing various religion-based personal laws to ensure "absolute equality and gender justice", excludes Scheduled Tribes from its purview.

The Bill mandates monogamy and sets a standardised legal age of 21 years for grooms and 18 years for brides. The government said the Bill, if passed, would make registration of all marriages and divorces compulsory to prevent fraud. The Bill codifies uniform grounds for divorce, such as cruelty, desertion, or mutual consent, and ensures the custody of children under five years with the mother.

The Bill creates a uniform, gender-equal order of preference for intestate inheritance among Class-1 heirs, which includes the spouse, children, and parents of the deceased.

The Bill makes the registration of live-in relationships mandatory within a month. "This protects vulnerable individuals by declaring that any child born out of a live-in relationship is fully legitimate, and by granting a deserted live-in partner the explicit legal standing to claim financial maintenance through the courts," the statement said. Failure to register a live-in relationship within a month shall attract imprisonment for up to three months or a fine of up to ₹10,000.

The Bill repeals the Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Act, 2024, to streamline the State's statutory architecture.

Congress leader Zakir Hussain Sikdar said the "political agenda" of the BJP made the government "bulldoze" the Bill. "The government should have held consultations with political parties and non-political organisations before introducing the Bill in the House," he said. The Bill has been scheduled for discussion on May 27.

The Hindu wins top honours at ABBY, Kyoorius awards

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu Group's campaign, 'Written by Journalists', has won the prestigious Black Elephant at the Kyoorius Marketing Awards, recognising it as the finest work of the year.

This is the highest honour awarded to the single Best of Show entry across all categories.

Crafted by Talented, the campaign celebrates the power, credibility, and craft of journalism, and highlights why stories written by journalists continue to matter in an evolving media landscape. The campaign also secured a Grey Elephant for Best in Discipline and a Concrete Elephant for excellence in strategy, effectiveness and execution.

At the ABBY Awards, The Hindu Group emerged as the runner-up for Publisher of the Year and secured four medals – one Gold, two Silver and one Merit. Here too, *The Hindu*'s 'Written By Journalists' campaign won Gold for reinforcing the enduring value of journalism.

The Group also secured silver awards for Stub The Habit, created by Ogilvy, a campaign recognised for its impactful communication on tobacco awareness, and Kerala for All, a Brand Solutions project done along with Kerala Tourism to promote accessible and inclusive tourism. *The Hindu* Made of Chennai, a city celebration campaign, earned a Merit recognition.

Speaking on the achievements, L.V. Navaneeth, Chief Executive Officer of The Hindu Group, said, "These honours reflect the strong collaboration between our editorial and business teams, along with our agency partners, in creating impactful storytelling and meaningful brand experiences that truly connect with audiences. The recognition reaffirms our commitment to building ideas that are both creatively compelling and strategically effective."

Delhi court convicts Cong. leader in protest case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday convicted Congress leader Alka Lamba in a case involving assault on police personnel during a protest at Jantar Mantar in 2024.

Ms. Lamba and several others had staged a protest ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, demanding the implementation of women's reservation in Parliament.

Ms. Lamba was booked on charges of assaulting public servants, obstructing government officials in the discharge of their duties, and disobeying a lawful order. The prosecution said the protest had been organised despite prohibitory orders being in force in the area.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Ashwani Panwar of the Rouse Avenue Courts said arguments on sentencing would be heard on June 5.

Supreme Court supports CBI probe into death of model Twisha Sharma

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday backed the Madhya Pradesh government's call to handover the model-turned-actor Twisha Sharma death case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), saying it had stepped in with awareness of a "narrative" created that the judiciary was involved in denying her family a fair probe.

The court had registered the *suo motu* case on Saturday, posting the case for urgent hearing on Monday.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant of the State's decision to handover the investigation to the CBI. "The CBI must make an endeavour to complete the probe promptly," Chief Justice Kant said.

The CBI on Monday met the Bhopal police officials and collected the necessary documents and evidence. They re-registered the State police FIR as their own case.

Mr. Mehta briefed the court that a second autopsy had been conducted by a team of doctors from AIIMS flown from New Delhi. The results of the second autopsy were still awaited.

The 33-year-old woman was found dead at her matrimonial home in Bhopal on May 12. Her family has levelled allegations of mental harassment and financial demands against her husband Samarth Singh and his mother Giribala Singh, a retired judge.

The apex court's intervention came amid publicised interviews by the retired district judge, and Ms. Sharma's family, who have alleged procedural lapses, institutional bias and tampering with evidence.

The court urged family members on both sides to make their statements before the probe authorities rather than to the media.

(With PTI inputs)

Twisha Sharma's brother performs rituals a day after the cremation on Monday. PTI

HC grants mother-in-law two days to file her reply

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Monday granted two days to retired judge Giribala Singh to file her reply on two pleas challenging the anticipatory bail granted to her in the Twisha Sharma death case, with the State government telling the court that she was not cooperating with the probe.

The development comes on a day when the Special Investigating Team (SIT) of the Bhopal Police interrogated Ms. Singh for the first time.

Bhopal Police Commissioner Sanjay Kumar ruled out allegations of tampering with the CCTV footage from Ms. Singh's house, where Twisha was found dead on May 12.

BJD MP exits party, steps down from Rajya Sabha

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Debashish Samantaray, a Biju Janata Dal Rajya Sabha MP, on Monday resigned from the regional party and also stepped down from the Upper House of Parliament, alleging that he was "systematically belittled" within the BJD.

In a letter addressed to BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik, Mr. Samantaray said, "I have always dedicated myself to the interest of the party... I have taken this hard decision in public interest."

Resigning from the BJD, he said, "I shall always be indebted to you for nominating me to the Rajya Sabha." He indicated at the possibility of him joining the BJP.

The senior leader said, "I have been trying to meet the BJD supremo, but vested interest groups blocked my access to the [party] president."

India-U.S. ties, Iran crisis in focus as Quad Foreign Ministers meet today

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Foreign Ministers of the Quad will meet for the first time in nearly a year, as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar hosts U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi in Delhi on Tuesday at Delhi's Hyderabad House. The Foreign Ministers will also call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an External Affairs Ministry advisory said.

The Ministers last met on July 1, 2025, when they updated the goals for the quadrilateral grouping, simplifying them to four areas: maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity and security, humanitarian assistance and emergency responses, and the launch of the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative.

However, rapid developments, including the U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran and other actions by the Donald Trump administration, have posed questions over the viability of the grouping, and the Ministers will have their task cut out as they seek to renew their mandate.

In addition, they will discuss whether it is possible to hold the Quad Summit in India later this year, or take a decision to downgrade the grouping by meeting regularly only at the Foreign Minister level, as was the case prior to 2021, given India's difficulties in scheduling the summit in 2024 and 2025.

Trade tensions

In particular, tensions between India and the U.S. in the past year have led to a slowdown in ties, amid differences over the India-Pakistan conflict, strained trade talks after the U.S. imposed a whopping 50% tariff on Indian goods, Mr. Trump's comments on India being a "dead economy", and immigration restrictions by the U.S. During his four-day visit to India, Mr. Rubio has faced some embarrassment and persistent questions from journalists over the U.S. President reposting an anti-immigrant rant describing India as a "hellhole".

"The President is a big fan of India, a big fan of Prime Minister Modi. I wouldn't be here if the President didn't want me to be here. He wouldn't have sent someone like Sergio [Gor] to be our Ambassador, someone who's very close to the President," Mr. Rubio told journalists on Monday.

"I mean, people say stupid stuff all the time on social media and in every country in the world, unfortunately," he added, indicating "general" comments online.

Invitation to PM

Although Mr. Rubio conveyed an invitation to Mr. Modi to visit Washington in the next few months, it is Mr. Trump's turn to visit India, and Mr. Modi is in any case expected to travel to the U.S. for the G-20 Summit in December. Prior to that, his travel schedule has already filled up.

Prioritising the Quad may be more difficult given other engagements. In September, Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to be in the U.S. to return Mr. Trump's visit to China, which will take precedence. Indications that Washington is seeking a more accommodating position with Beijing could cause concerns for the long-term future of the Indo-Pacific grouping that was set up to counter Chinese actions in the region.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio with wife Jeanette Rubio at Amber Fort in Jaipur on Monday. ANI

Marco Rubio visits Taj Mahal, Amber Fort

Press Trust of India
AGRA/JAIPUR/NEW DELHI

United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Monday visited the Taj Mahal in Agra and the Amber Fort in Jaipur along with his wife Jeanette Rubio and U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor ahead of the crucial Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Rubio, who is on a four-day visit to India, arrived in Agra in a special aircraft and travelled by car to the Taj Mahal, officials said.

This was followed by a trip to the Amber Fort, where Mr. Rubio and his wife were given a traditional Rajasthani welcome and attended cultural performances featuring folk dances, including Kacchi Ghodi and Ghoomar.

BJP hits out at Congress over fuel price hike comments

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday criticised Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, for his remarks on fuel price hikes.

BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India had been confronting the challenges arising from the West Asia crisis with strength. Referring to the remarks of Mr. Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on the latest increase in prices of petrol and diesel, Mr. Bhatia asked: "In a global challenge, whether one belongs to the ruling party or Opposition, can they not stand with the country?"

He said for nearly 65 to 70 days of the West Asia war, fuel prices in India remained unchanged as the intention was to ensure that common citizen did not suffer. "Oil companies absorbed losses because they did not want the public to suffer. While there is a gas crisis globally, domestic gas remains available in India because it is our priority," said Mr. Bhatia.

He alleged that after the war began, instead of supporting the Prime Minister's appeal to citizens, the Congress "spread panic" through misinformation. He said every decision taken related to fuel prices would be in public interest.

'Daily robbery': Opposition slams fresh fuel price hike

Kharge says every hike is a blow to household budgets; Rahul terms Modi 'inflation man', says fuel prices were being increased in 'instalments', Kejriwal asks why cheaper oil was not being sourced

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Running on fumes: Motorists at a petrol pump in New Delhi on Monday. Petrol and diesel prices were raised for the fourth time in less than two weeks. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

As petrol and diesel prices were raised by ₹2.61-₹2.71 a litre on Monday, marking the fourth increase in less than two weeks, the Opposition leaders stepped up their attack on the Narendra Modi government, accusing it of burdening consumers and failing to shield them from rising costs.

While Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge described the increase as "daily robbery", Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi called Prime Minister Narendra Modi "*mehangai manav*" (inflation man). Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal questioned why India was not sourcing cheaper crude oil from Russia and Iran.

In a post on social media platform X, Mr. Kharge said the "daily assault of fuel loot" was continuing, noting that this was the fourth hike in 10 days. "The Modi government has sprinkled petrol to burn the savings of common people," the Congress chief said.

Mr. Kharge alleged that despite international crude oil prices not witnessing an increase comparable to that seen during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) years, retail fuel prices had risen sharply under the BJP government. He claimed that petrol prices had increased from ₹71.41 a litre in 2014 to ₹102.12 in 2026, while diesel prices had risen from ₹56.71 to ₹95.20 during the same period.

The Congress president also linked Monday's hike to gains in shares of public sector oil companies and alleged that the government prioritised "profit over people".

'Who is benefitting'

"Every fuel price hike is another blow to household budgets," he said, adding that farmers and micro, small, and medium enterprises were among those most affected. "We repeat. Who is benefitting from this daily robbery?" he asked.

Mr. Gandhi also attacked the Prime Minister, alleging that fuel prices were being increased in "instalments". "'*Mehangai manav*' Modi strikes again. He raises petrol and diesel prices in instalments – ensuring that your pockets are quietly picked, bit by bit," he said in a post on X.

Mr. Gandhi claimed that he had warned of an impending economic storm, but the government had delayed the increases because of elections. "'*Mehangai manav*' Modi has just one job: promises during elections, and attacking people's pockets at other times," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal said rising inflation was imposing hardship on "140 crore people" and asked what compulsion prevented the government from purchasing cheaper fuel. "Russia and Iran are offering us cheaper and sufficient oil and gas. Why is Prime Minister Narendra Modi not buying cheap oil from them?" he asked in a video message on X.

Congress spokesperson Ragini Nayak raised concerns over oil supply disruptions and the economy. She asked what the government had done to bring back ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz.

India-China ties, global diplomacy in spotlight at The Hindu Huddle, 2026

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Geopolitical issues, particularly the unpredictable behaviour of global superpowers, will be at the core of discussions at The Hindu Huddle, as diplomats and thinkers discuss possible solutions to recent disruptions and conflicts in West Asia and Europe. The theme of the The Hindu Huddle, to be held in Bengaluru on June 5 and 6, is "A World in Transition".

Among the key speakers will be the Chinese Ambassador to India, Xu Feihong, who will discuss developments in India-China ties and the role the two countries can play on the multilateral stage. This will be a special session that looks at 75 years of the bilateral relationship, and particularly the last few years, with New Delhi and Beijing resuming normal diplomatic, business, and travel ties after years of freeze and military stand-off following the Galwan incident in 2020.

This year, both sides are expected to engage more closely as India chairs the BRICS Summit in September, and high-level engagements are expected to continue between them.

Another important panel on global diplomacy will focus on "The Middle Power Way". It will look at whether the international order can be rebuilt by other powers, when global leaders flout the rules. The discussion derives from the speech at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos made by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney earlier this year, where he pointed out that while great powers can afford to "go it alone" given their market size and military capacity, middle powers cannot. "Middle powers must act together, because if we are not at the table, we're on the menu," Mr. Carney said.

The panel will have some of the most senior diplomats serving in India: Australian High Commissioner Philip Green, European Union Ambassador Herve Delphin, and Brazilian Ambassador Kenneth Felix Hascynzki da Nobrega. Joining them in the discussion will be the author of *The Fractured Himalaya*, Nirupama Menon Rao, who is a former Foreign Secretary and former Ambassador to the U.S. and China.

Both discussions will be moderated by *The Hindu*'s Diplomatic Affairs Editor, Suhasini Haidar.

Event partners

The event is presented by Sami-Sabinsa Group as the Presenting Partner. The event is co-powered by the Government of Telangana and held In Association with Khaja Bandanawaz University. The event is further supported by: Larsen & Toubro, Apollo Hospitals, IIM Sirmaur, ICFAI Group, TAFE, Wizzmoni, Associate Partners; Casagrand, Realty Partner; Amity University Bengaluru, University Partner; Harrow International School Bengaluru, Education Partner; Meghalaya Tourism, State Partner; and NDTV 24x7, TV Partner.

President confers Padma awards; Dharmendra, N. Rajam honoured

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday presented Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri awards for 2026 at the Civil Investiture Ceremony-I held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

For this year, the President has approved 131 Padma awards, including five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri.

They are announced every year on Republic Day. On Monday, the President presented two Padma Vibhushan, six Padma Bhushan, and 58 Padma Shri awards.

She conferred the Padma Vibhushan on legendary Bollywood actor Dharmendra posthumously, received by his wife and MP Hema Malini; and violin virtuoso N. Rajam, for exceptional contribution to their respective fields.

High honour: President Droupadi Murmu conferring the Padma Vibhushan on violinist N. Rajam, the Padma Bhushan on Kotak Mahindra Bank founder Uday Suresh Kumar Kotak, and the Padma Shri on cricket player Harmanpreet Kaur Bhullar in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

'Singing violin'

Ms. Rajam pioneered a revolutionary approach to classical music by introducing "Gayaki Ang" – a technique that enables violin to emulate human vocals – earning her global renown as the "Singing Violin". The Padma Bhushan was presented to former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Bhagat Singh Koshyari; Shatavadhani R. Ganesh, who revived the classical art form of "Avadhana"; Uday Suresh Kumar Kotak, founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank; and eminent gastroenterologist Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy.

The award was conferred posthumously on former MP Vijay Kumar Malhotra and "ad guru" Piyush Pandey.

The remaining Padma awardees will be felicitated in the second round of the ceremony to be held later.

Among the Padma Shri recipients were Prosenjit Chatterjee, one of the most influential figures of Indian cinema; Harmanpreet Kaur Bhullar, an inspirational figure in Indian women's cricket; para athlete Praveen Kumar; former Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director-General K. Vijay Kumar; folk musician Mir Haji Kasam; Tamil devotional music artist N. Swaminathan; and traditional folk music artist Taga Ram Bheel.

Other awardees

While Silambam master K. Pajanivel was awarded for promoting the ancient art originating from Tamil Nadu, hockey coach Baldev Singh was felicitated for distinguished service to Indian hockey for over four decades.

"Kantha" embroidery artist Tripti Mukherjee, social worker Janardan Bapurao Bothe, and husband-wife duo of Dr. Ramchandra Godbole and Suneeta Godbole, who provided healthcare and social support to tribal communities, also received the Padma Shri. Environmentalists Devaki Amma G. and Hally War; bibliophile Ankegowda M.; Sanskrit scholar Vempaty Kutumba Shastry; and botanist Gambir Singh Yonzone were the others who received the Padma Shri.

Cockroach Janta Party has not dimmed PM's popularity among youth: Haryana CM

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Modi will be the face of the BJP in the Punjab Assembly election, says Nayab Singh Saini

Dismissing the suggestion that the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) reflected anger among the youth, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday said the youth would still back Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who would be the face of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Punjab Assembly election, slated for early next year.

Speaking during an interaction organised by the Women Journalist Welfare Trust here, Mr. Saini said the CJP did not reflect the views of the majority of the youth in the country.

"In my frequent interactions with young people, I have not seen any support for this CJP. What is the longevity of a cockroach? The Opposition, including the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party, have a history of concocting fake narratives, just like the Congress did during the 2024 [Lok Sabha] election, stating that the Constitution was in danger. It was the Congress that put the Constitution in danger by imposing Emergency, [and] by undertaking self-serving amendments to the Constitution," Mr. Saini said.

Visits to Punjab

Mr. Saini's reference to the AAP was noteworthy as he has been undertaking several trips to neighbouring Punjab for campaign events across the State. When asked about his campaign interventions, Mr. Saini said that the people of Punjab showed great enthusiasm for the BJP, because of the welfare programmes implemented by BJP governments, when compared with the ruling AAP government which had failed to do so.

Mr. Modi would be the party's face in the Punjab election, he said. "The BJP has just won a historic victory in West Bengal. During the campaign, there was no local face projected, the people saw Prime Minister Modi and his governance record, and voted for the BJP. Similarly, in Punjab too, Mr. Modi will be the face," he said.

He has been visiting Punjab frequently since 2025, with observers saying that he was being deployed to stitch together a non-Jat Sikh coalition in the State.

No 'grave urgency' to entertain plea against Cockroach Party: CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday asked a lawyer to not take the continued online frenzy over his reported use of the word "cockroach" in a court hearing so "sentimentally".

The Chief Justice was reacting to a lawyer, advocate N.K. Goswami, who expressed anxiety at the manner in which a courtroom observation from the Bench was being "distorted" online despite a clarification from the judge. The CJI's reported remark on "cockroaches" with reference to fake law degree holders during the hearing of a writ petition on May 15, spawned a public furore, and a viral online platform, the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP).

The Chief Justice had later clarified that he had been misquoted, and had the greatest concern and respect for the youth.

A petition was filed in the Supreme Court seeking a probe into the 'activities' of the party.

On Monday, the Chief Justice said there was "no grave urgency" to entertain a writ petition filed by an SC lawyer seeking a probe into the "activities" of a "digital-political formation", the CJP, and the commercial exploitation, trademark appropriation, and monetised circulation of oral remarks made in court proceedings.

Arrests, mass resignations, 'bulldozer action' deepen Trinamool's crisis in Bengal

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Demolition notices for illegal construction of buildings continued to be issued in West Bengal. A police team visited Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's residence on Monday to collect security equipment. Kolkata Police officials described the visit as a routine exercise.

Arrests of local Trinamool leaders have also continued in the three weeks since the new government came to power.

A Trinamool party office in Konnagar area of Hooghly district was razed on Monday. The Trinamool office had been illegally constructed on government land, allegedly by local party councillor Khokon Pal, and was thus taken down by a bulldozer, official sources said.

Abhishek Banerjee

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation had previously sent notices to several properties linked to Mr. Banerjee, seeking clarification about deviations from originally sanctioned plans.

Demolitions continue

Bulldozers were also deployed in Beleghata, Bosepukur, Tiljala, and Kasba areas of Kolkata on Sunday to demolish illegal multi-storeyed buildings allegedly connected to former or current Trinamool leaders, and local strongmen associated with the party.

Many Trinamool councillors have resigned, and some councillors and panchayat pradhans have been arrested in the past few weeks, with the Trinamool further affected by the loss of local body members.

On Monday, at least 30 councillors in the Bhatpara municipality, including the chairman, handed in their resignation. A similar situation was reported from the Diamond Harbour municipality, where eight of the 16 Trinamool councillors resigned. In the Halisahar, Kanthi, North Barrackpore, and Garulia municipalities, over half the Trinamool councillors have resigned en masse in some areas. At least a dozen councillors across the State have been arrested

INBRIEF

SC considers bigger public participation in Aravalli case

The Supreme Court on Monday said the expert committee to be constituted to define the Aravalli hills and ranges must ensure larger public participation through consultations with domain experts and stakeholders. A Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant was responding to submissions by Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati that the Central Empowered Committee and the *amicus curiae*, senior advocate K. Parameshwar, had given common names to be included in the panel. The court intends to have the panel not only define the Aravalli but also draw a road map for permissible activities, including the question of regulated mining in one of the oldest and ecologically-sensitive mountain systems in the world.

8 killed as car falls into deep gorge in Maharashtra's Raigad

Eight persons were killed after the car they were travelling in fell into an 800-foot-deep gorge in Raigad district of Maharashtra, a police official said on Monday. The accident occurred in the Ambenali Ghat section on Poladpur-Mahabaleshwar road early on Sunday morning. The sports utility vehicle was located in the gorge on Monday morning, after relatives of the victims alerted the police when the group failed to reach their destination in Satara district. The victims had left from Harne Bandar beach in Dapoli. The police tracked the victims' last location through a mobile tower near Poladpur. Following this, a search and rescue operation was launched.

Amit Shah to visit border areas over next three weeks

Starting with Rajasthan on Tuesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit the country's border areas over the next three weeks, a government official said. During his visits to outposts along Pakistan and Bangladesh borders, Mr. Shah is expected to take stock of the security situation with State government and Border Security Force (BSF) officials. Mr. Shah arrived in Rajasthan's Bikaner on Monday night. He will visit the BSF border outpost at Sanchu on Tuesday, where he will attend the "*Prahari Sammelan*" and virtually inaugurate barracks for women personnel. Later in the day, he will review the border security with senior BSF officers in Bikaner.

One held after 'rape, murder' of minor girl in Kashmir

The J&K Police arrested a young man on Monday amid a public outcry over the alleged rape and murder of a minor girl, who went missing on Saturday in Budgam, central Kashmir. "Over the last 36 hours, we questioned multiple suspects. After a while, one of the suspects admitted his involvement in the crime," Senior Superintendent of Police, Budgam, K.K. Hari Prasad, said. The accused is a resident of Galwanpora. The 12-year-old victim's body was recovered in Budgam on Sunday. A copy of the Koran and the girl's shoes were found near the body.

Minister calls for report from CBSE as Class 12 exam results trigger concerns

Dharmendra Pradhan deputes IIT Madras and IIT Kanpur experts to assist the board; the expert team will examine the overall IT infrastructure robustness; complaints have been raised over the new On-Screen Marking system, or OSM, while the re-verification process has run into delays

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

After multiple students complained about the new On-Screen Marking (OSM) system, which was introduced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for evaluating Class 12 answer papers this year, Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan stated that he had asked the CBSE for a detailed report on the glitches.

The CBSE has been in the eye of the storm recently with Class 12 students and parents complaining about the OSM system and the struggles they have faced in the re-evaluation process after the completion of the board examination. "The IIT [Indian Institute of Technology] Madras and IIT Kanpur will look into the technical glitch faced by the CBSE portal. Those who applied for revaluation will get a scanned copy. I've taken it seriously. The government is looking into it in detail," Mr. Pradhan stated.

"The expert team will examine the overall IT infrastructure robustness and assist in taking corrective measures to ensure that login authentication, user access systems and payment gateways are accurate and in order," an official from the Ministry of Education explained.

On Monday, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh criticised the government for introducing the OSM system for Class 12 board examinations, which he said had thrown into chaos the academic futures of lakhs of children.

"He's portraying himself as some saviour by bringing in IIT-Kanpur to help address these technical issues. The question really is why these issues were not anticipated? Why did it take the minister so long to respond?" Mr. Ramesh said. "The Mantri Pradhan owes the country his resignation, and the Pradhan Mantri owes us answers to why this Minister – who is openly disrupting the future of India's students with his ineptitude – has been allowed to continue for so long."

The CBSE had rolled out the On-Screen Marking system for Class 12 evaluation this year. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

OSM system

In the OSM system, instead of traditionally checking physical copies, the evaluators checked the scanned answer sheets on-screen. Officials in the Education Ministry confirmed that 98 lakh answer books were scanned and evaluated digitally. Experts said that each answer book had an average of 20 sheets, which means that nearly 1.96 crore pages were scanned in a compressed timeline, at centres with varying infrastructure and partially trained staff.

Several students who had applied for re-evaluation for their marks said they received wrong answer sheets. On Monday, a Delhi student was brutally trolled for taking to X to complain about the unexpectedly low marks he received in Physics. He alleged it may not merely be a "rechecking" issue but a serious answer-sheet mismatch. "We applied for photocopies of my answer sheets. And I am shattered because the Physics answer sheet uploaded by the CBSE is not mine," a student said. CBSE officials told *The Hindu* that there was indeed a mix-up with regard to the student's Physics answer sheet and his original answer book was handed over to him.

Teachers' warning

The CBSE had been warned by teachers as early as February 2026 that evaluators had not received structured training in the OSM system. While the CBSE had promised that the OSM method of evaluation would lead to greater transparency, speed, and accuracy, according to its own data, over 68,000 answer books had to be rescanned due to poor image quality, and over 13,500 were pulled for manual rechecking.

In the results announced earlier this month, Class 12 pass percentage dropped by three percentage points from last year to 85.20%. Having received lower than expected marks, students began applying in large numbers for re-evaluation on the portal, which opened on May 19 and almost immediately crashed due to the heavy traffic.

After encountering the glitch, students were stranded mid-process as the CBSE pulled out the application link from its website entirely. The portal then reopened on May 20.

Students who had paid fees on May 20 reported that payment was deducted but no confirmation was received. "Students were in dark even after 24 hours. Some were able to apply later, others still complained of the process not working. Login failures, application submission errors, download failures continued to be reported," a parent told *The Hindu*. On May 21, the portal again slipped into maintenance mode. The CBSE extended the deadline for application twice to remedy the situation.

Students who managed to access their scanned answer sheets shared screenshots on social media of copies that appeared blurred, unreadable or having rotated pages. "Some scans showed overlapping elements – browser bars, timestamps – obscuring the actual written content. Students posed an obvious question – if we cannot read these copies, how did examiners evaluate them? Students identified answers that match official marking scheme, yet marks were deducted. Evaluators have complained of screen fatigue, poor scan resolution and missed answers during the OSM process," pointed out educationist and RTI activist Keshav Agarwal.

Many students received main answer booklets but supplementary sheets were absent. The CBSE has not commented on how evaluation quality was maintained when OSM system was allegedly defective.

320 tourists stranded in Gulmarg cable car rescued; probe ordered

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

More than 300 tourists aboard Asia's highest cable car, the Gulmarg Gondola, were rescued after a dramatic, hours-long operation in north Kashmir's Gulmarg on Monday.

Rescue operations were launched in the afternoon after the cable car developed a technical snag, leaving 65 cabins suspended mid-air. Panic gripped the stranded tourists as the weather turned inclement, with strong winds and rain lashing Gulmarg.

The rescue operation lasted over six hours and ensured the safety of all tourists, officials said. Technical teams were assessing the nature and extent of the malfunction, they added.

A tourist climbs down from the cable car at Gulmarg Gondola after the service was halted due to a technical snag on Monday. ANI

Teams from the National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, the Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the Army worked jointly to bring the tourists down safely.

Around 320 stranded tourists were rescued in the operation. "The incident occurred around 1.20 p.m. when a technical fault forced several gondola cabins carrying tourists to remain suspended mid-air. Fourteen SDRF teams were initially pressed into service, while an additional team was later deployed," Director-General of Police Nalin Prabhat.

Personnel were rushed to the Gondola cable car after a technical fault caused a sudden suspension of services between the Base Station and Phase-1, an Army spokesperson said. "Following a distress call received from the J&K Police and the Gondola Management Authority regarding the safety and evacuation of stranded tourists, the Indian Army swiftly swung into action and mobilised rescue teams towards the affected area," the Army said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said an inquiry would be conducted into the incident. "Responsibility for any lapses will be fixed and appropriate action taken," he said.

Closely monitoring Ebola situation in Africa: Health Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda on Monday reviewed preparedness and surveillance measures to counter the Ebola virus, amid concern that the outbreak in Africa may spread to other parts of the world.

India has not reported any case of the Bundibugyo Ebola disease to date.

The Health Ministry said it was monitoring the situation in Africa. "We are working closely with the National Centre for Disease Control and other agencies concerned, and have strengthened surveillance and public health preparedness across the country," said a senior official.

Meetings have also been held with States, Union Territories to review preparedness and response measures.

DGCA directive

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has directed airlines to ensure that passengers travelling from or transiting through Uganda or the Democratic Republic of the Congo mandatorily fill out a form providing personal and contact details, travel origin, exposure history, and any medical symptoms.

As per the standard operating procedure, airlines must designate segregated seating with at least three vacant rows around the suspected passenger. Suspected cases must be provided masks and personal protective equipment, while masks must also be distributed to passengers seated nearby.

TH CROSSWORD + 14803

(set by Pixie Dust)

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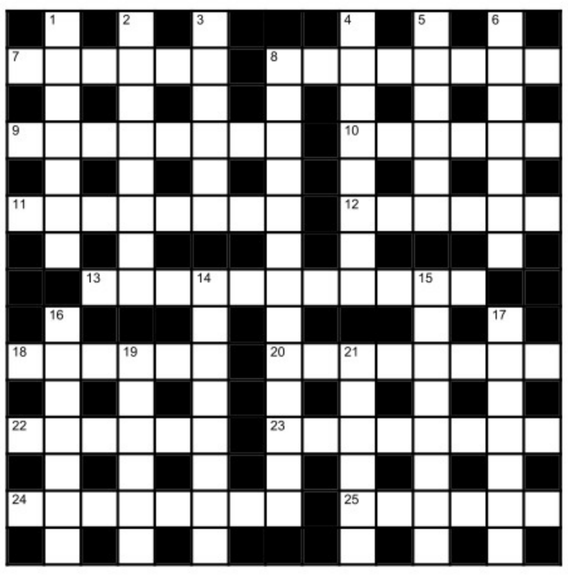
SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Spooner exclaims:"I fall flat for lady!" (6)
8 Legendary skill? (8)
9 What's behind sacrifice? Fatherhood - laying aside past forever! (8)
10 Honey producers controlling half a dozen groups (6)
11 Saurashtra's captain, fast bowler's an astronaut (8)
12 Factor in Archetypal Lord's ashen hue (6)
13 A net is used several times in murder? (11)
18 Snake swallowed sandwiches, bit of liver and pieces of ears and arms (6)
20 Global organisation to drawback? Unfortunate! (8)
22 That is Sue's wrapping paper (6)
23 Angelic Emma pays Riemann from time to time (8)
24 Off guard, Doctor Anu swears, endlessly (8)
25 William for one, cycling around trendy framework (6)

Down

1 So, Pat's egocentricity to some extent kept back secret police (7)
2 Disallow stands in camps (8)
3 Close to retirement, mean master escaped monotony (6)
4 Cop and Private Investigator with new fix for locks (5,3)
5 Desperate wives beginning to love swinging around (6)
6 Can this impunity hurt Modern Cafe? (7)
8 UFOs scare us? (6,7)
14 Dilettantes Raman, Stew & Bursa scratching heads and bottoms (8)
15 Tall model unpaid without embarrassment and remorse at first (8)
16 Invalid is not complaining (7)
17 Tumbler acknowledging king's wave (7)
19 Insult criminal now and repudiate (6)
21 Take in drink for starters - throw-up in party, perhaps losing equilibrium (6)

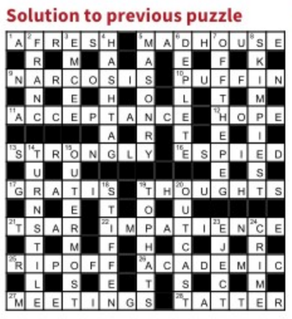
SUDOKU

		9		6				
			3	4	1			9
3		7	9		2			
			8				6	
	3	5				4	9	
	8				7			
			5		8	6		3
4			6	1	3			
				9		5		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS6892 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	1	2	9	7	5	8	3	4
4	5	7	6	3	8	1	2	9
3	8	9	4	1	2	7	5	6
5	9	4	7	2	6	3	1	8
7	2	6	3	8	1	9	4	5
1	3	8	5	4	9	2	6	7
2	4	5	8	9	3	6	7	1
8	6	3	1	5	7	4	9	2
9	7	1	2	6	4	5	8	3

FAITH

Definition of a Vaishnava

Who is a Vaishnava? Obviously, a Vaishnava is a devotee of Vishnu. He acknowledges the supremacy of Vishnu. But beyond this, there are specific qualities which a person should have, to be called a Vaishnava, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse.

Vishnu is not the first name of the Supreme One. As Parasara Bhattar pointed out, Vishnu is the first avatara of the Supreme One. He gave the tasks of creation and destruction to Brahma and Siva, respectively. He placed Himself in the middle as Vishnu the protector. His first name is Narayana. Then comes the name Vasudeva. The third name is Vishnu. That being the case, why do we use the word Vaishnavam, to refer to the faith that recognises His overlordship over everyone and everything? Why don't we say Narayanam or Vasudevam, considering that these are based on His earlier names? Itihasas tell us about the characteristics of a Vaishnava, and the foundation of all that is the very name Vishnu.

Vishnu means the all pervasive One. In the Vishnu Sahasranama, it is the second name. He is present in everyone as *antaryami*, regardless of whether we are His devotees or not. He is even present in the asuras who hate Him. When Hiranyakasipu asks Prahlada where Hari can be found, the child replies that He is present in Prahlada and even in Hiranyakasipu. He is present in cetana (sentient) and acetana (non-sentient) entities. The entire universe is His body. This is the *sareera sareeri* concept.

Kindness to all, and anger towards none should be the motto of a person, if he or she can be considered a Vaishnava.

INBRIEF

Panel to study quantum tech's potential in financial sector

The Reserve Bank on Monday announced the setting up of an eight-member expert committee to study the potential of quantum technology in the financial sector. Quantum technology represents a paradigm shift compared with traditional systems as it leverages the principles of quantum mechanics. This enables quantum systems to address complex financial problems such as portfolio optimisation, risk assessment, and macroeconomic modelling, the RBI said. PTI

Ashok Leyland bags order from VRL Logistics

Ashok Leyland Ltd. said it has bagged an order of 715 vehicles from VRL Logistics for an unspecified amount. The order includes AVTR 3120 haulage trucks, BOSS 1615 trucks and Oyster staff buses. While 300 trucks have already been delivered, the remaining 415 orders are scheduled for execution in the current year. "The order marks a strategic deepening of our partnership to drive higher logistics efficiency," said Anand Sankeshwar, MD, VRL Logistics.

Dhoot Transmission to raise ₹1,400 crore via IPO

Auto components manufacturer Dhoot Transmission Ltd. is set to hit the capital market for raising a fresh issue of ₹1,400 crore, according to the prospectus. The proposed offer is a mix of fresh issue and an offer for sale. The fresh issue will consist of equity shares aggregating up to a value of ₹1,400 crore. The offer for sale will comprise up to 1.6 crore equity shares. The company proposes to use the IPO proceeds for repayment/prepayment of borrowings of ₹493.9 crore, and for investment in subsidiaries.

'Prolonged war may shave 200 bps off corporate profitability'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Having undertaken a stress test of 34 sectors, Crisil Ratings said that prolonged supply-chain disruptions due to the West Asia conflict could shave off corporate operating profitability by 200 basis points (bps) this fiscal from the pre-conflict expectation of 12%, with some sectors seeing a more pronounced impact.

This is assuming supply-chain disruptions lasting for 9 months this fiscal compared with 6 months in Crisil's base case), with crude prices averaging $110 per barrel for this fiscal versus a base case assumption of $95.

"For companies, managing costs and profitability will be a bigger challenge than achieving topline growth," said Subodh Rai, MD, Crisil Ratings. "Of the 34 sectors stress-tested, 22 would see operating profitability being culled more than 10% due to higher inventory costs and inability to fully pass on the burden to consumers immediately," he said.

"On the other hand, even a partial pass-through can drive up realisations, resulting in a lower impact on revenue growth for most sectors. Further, credit profiles will be cushioned by controlled gearing levels and sustained domestic demand. We foresee the credit quality of only 8 sectors, accounting for 10% of our rated corporate debt, being materially impacted," he added.

Indian mobile market hit as global semicon industry faces 'severe memflation'

India sees shortage of sub ₹10,000-₹15,000 phones as leading chips manufacturers divert capacities to meet humongous demand for high-bandwidth memory required to support AI infra

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Off reach: The entry-level smartphone segment is under severe pressure due to rising memory chip costs. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The semiconductor industry globally is experiencing a severe structural 'memflation' (inflation caused by memory chips shortage), with skyrocketing prices leading to huge disruptions in price sensitive consumer electronics and mobile phone markets in India, said industry experts.

The key reason is that global wafer and advanced packaging capacities are increasingly being allocated toward high bandwidth memory (HBM) and AI infrastructure due to significantly higher demand and margins. A typical HBM takes 2-3x wafer capacity compared with a conventional DRAM.

This is making availability of conventional DRAM and NAND used in mainstream electronics tighter, according to India Electronics & Semiconductor Association (IESA).

Dynamic Random-Access Memory, or DRAM, is a type of computer memory used in PCs, laptops, and smartphones to temporarily store data that the processor needs to actively use. While NAND is a type of memory storage used in smartphones that retains data even without power.

Industry experts also confirmed that there is a shortage of sub ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 phones across the country as leading semiconductor (memory chips) manufacturers are diverting all their energies and production capacities away from standard consumer chips to meet the humongous demand for high-bandwidth memory required to support AI infrastructure.

India very vulnerable

B.V. Naidu, a foundational architect in India's semiconductor and Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) ecosystem and a former president of IESA, India is extremely vulnerable to memory chip shortage due to its heavy reliance on electronic component imports and a consumer base driven by price elasticity.

"It seems global chip makers are prioritising premium brands such as Apple and Samsung for standard memory allocation, leaving budget brands in India and in other geographies to starve of chip/component supply. This has resulted in a short supply of economy smartphones in India. Also, I was told prices of several brands of cellphones have gone up by at least 15-20%," Mr. Naidu said.

As per IESA, higher DRAM and NAND prices, combined with the shift to AI-enabled applications and larger storage needs, are making the sub ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 category increasingly difficult to sustain profitably.

"The market is witnessing a structural recalibration toward higher-value devices. That means, phone makers are prioritising premium phone production over entry level phones," explained Ashok Chandak, president, IESA.

Confirming the trend, Rajeev Rajput, Senior Principal Analyst at Gartner, in a recent report said, "Memflation will destroy, or at least delay, non-AI demand into 2028, to varying degrees depending on the application. Technology suppliers should prepare for higher prices during the first half of 2026, followed by persistent but moderating price increases throughout the rest of the year." CIOs and IT leaders should be cautious about signing supply agreements with unfavourable pricing terms that extend beyond 2027, he warned.

Echoing a similar sentiment, Mr. Chandak said while capacity expansion announcements were underway globally, meaningful and substantial relief may take up to another two years because semiconductor capacity creation was highly capital-intensive and time-consuming.

"We expect the market to remain tight through 2026-2027, with gradual normalisation thereafter," he added.

On bill of materials (BOM) pressure and smartphone profitability, Mr. Chandak observed, memory pricing has become one of the biggest cost pressures in smartphone and entry level laptop manufacturing.

Investors upbeat as oil prices slip on renewed peace talks

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Investors returned to buying, pushing the benchmark Sensex and Nifty upwards, as oil prices dipped and rupee appreciated.

Sensex and Nifty rose 1.4% and 1.3% to 76,488.96 and 24,031.70 points respectively after trading and gradually improving over the day's session.

All but the Nifty FMCG index among the sectoral indices registered a close of more than 2.5%. Of the 3,419 stocks that traded, 2,270 advanced and 1,450 declined. Markets were spooked by the uncertainty of the escalating war between Iran and the U.S. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz had choked oil supplies, spiking prices. Brent Crude Futures were consistently trading at over $104-105 a barrel for the better part of the past three months. The indicator had gone as high as $112 a barrel on some days.

Cheaper oil reduced pressure on the Indian rupee which appreciated to 95.26 against the U.S. dollar on Monday.

"Global sentiment improved on reports of progress towards reopening the Strait of Hormuz, although credibility remains uncertain given frequent shifts in developments. The rally was led by large caps, supported by relatively attractive valuations vs long-term averages," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd.

BP subsidiary, ONGC sign TSP agreement

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

TSP indicated a raise in crude output by 10.8% and gas output by 31.5% over 10-year contract period

Building on enhanced output from Mumbai High from a similar pact, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) inked another technical services-provider (TSP) pact with BP Plc's subsidiary, BP Exploration Services India, for its Western Offshore fields.

"The TSP will review field performance and identify improvements in reservoir, facilities and wells to boost production from Western Offshore fields (excluding Mumbai High)," ONGC said.

It added the TSP indicated potential to raise crude output by 10.8% and gas output by 31.5% over the 10-year contract period.

"In terms of oil plus oil-equivalent gas, the increase works to about 24.1% (from 128.93 MMTOE to 159.96 MMTOE).

The increase is expected to be visible from fiscal year 2027 with full-scale visibility expected from fiscal year 2030," ONGC said.

BP Exploration Services India would be receiving a fixed fee for the initial two years and thereafter, a service fee premised on the revenue from the incremental production scaled after recovering incremental costs.

In January last year, ONGC inked a TSP contract with BP Exploration Alpha Ltd., another BP subsidiary, for Mumbai High - the largest oil field of the Mumbai Offshore basin.

According to ONGC, preliminary production from the initial months of the contract implementation indicated "moderation of the earlier decline trajectory and stabilisation of production."

FM asks lenders to design repayment of loans around business cycles

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman urged banks to go beyond standard loan products and design such offerings where repayments are structured around the unique needs of a particular business.

Speaking at the 37th foundation event of the SIDBI here, Ms. Sitharaman said the government's focused institution is for helping small industries take the lead on this.

"My message to SIDBI and every banker here is that standard products cannot serve non-standard businesses," the FM said, citing examples of how the income generation of businesses vary across multiple activities.

It can be noted that at present, loans are typically given with a monthly repayment, which may be weekly as well in the case of microfinance.

"A farmer-linked enterprise does not earn every month. A resort does not earn evenly through the year. A garment exporter waits for payment after shipment. A small auto-comp supplier waits for invoice clearance. A woman entrepreneur may have regular transactions yet no property in her name," Ms. Sitharaman said.

"Why should all of them be given the same repayment structure?" the FM questioned, asking SIDBI to take the lead to ensure credit is designed around business cycle of an enterprise.

The FM gave examples of the plan that she has in mind, pointing out to how credit terms can be different for various industries in Maharashtra.

An agri-processing enterprise in Nashik, Satara or Sangli can have repayments linked to harvest cycles, while a grape processor, turmeric unit or a pulses unit which earns with the arrival of a crop must be allowed a seasonal repayment and off-season flexibility. Similarly, in the hospitality or the tourism-related businesses in Mahabaleshwar, Matheran or Lonavala, where earnings come in four strong months, repayments should be linked to that cycle, she said. Even in the case of textile and garment units in Ichalkaranji or Solapur, credit must understand export cycles, the FM said.

Cyient Semicon raises $30 million

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

IT firm Cyient's subsidiary Cyient Semiconductors raised $30 million via equity and debt from funds managed by EAAA India Alternatives (Edelweiss) and affiliated co-investors.

The transaction includes equity investment of about $10 million at a post-money valuation of about $500 million (₹4,600 crore) alongside about $20 million in structured debt to support long-duration growth, it said.

The funds would be deployed to advance product research and development roadmap across custom power semiconductors and custom ASSP's; building in-house semiconductor validation and testing infrastructure in India to boost development and qualification capabilities and supporting working capital needs, it said.

सी.एस.आई.आर. मद्रास कॉम्प्लेक्स
CSIR MADRAS COMPLEX
सीएसआईआर रोड, सीएसआईआर परिसर, तरमणि, चेन्नै
CSIR Road, CSIR Campus, Taramani, Chennai-600113.

शुद्धिपत्र / CORRIGENDUM

सभी संबंधित उम्मीदवारों को सूचित किया जाता है कि प्रशासनिक कारणों से निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए भर्ती रद्द कर दी गई है:-

1. कनिष्ठ सचिवालय सहायक (सा.) – हिन्दी (अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग) का 01 पद, जो सीएमसी विज्ञापन संख्या एमसी–01/2025 दिनांक 16.04.2025 के माध्यम से विज्ञापित किया गया था और
2. सुरक्षा सहायक का 01 पद, जो सीएमसी विज्ञापन संख्या 01/2024 दिनांक 28-01-2025 के माध्यम से विज्ञापित किया गया था।

It is hereby notified to all concerned candidates that the recruitment for the following posts have been cancelled due to administrative reasons.

1) 01 post of Junior Secretariat Assistant (Gen) – Hindi (OBC), advertised vide CMC Advertisement No.MC-01/2025 dated 16.04.2025 and
2) 01 post of Security Assistant, advertised vide CMC Advertisement No.01/2024 dated 28.01.2025.

अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया सीएसआईआर मद्रास कॉम्प्लेक्स (सीएमसी) वेबसाइट **http://www.csircmc.res.in** पर जाएँ तथा होम पेज पर "CAREERS" विकल्प पर क्लिक करें।
For more details please visit CSIR Madras Complex (CMC) website **http://www.csircmc.res.in** and click on "CAREERS" from the Home Page.

प्रशासनिक अधिकारी / Administrative Officer

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
DISTRICT SUPPLY OFFICE, ALWAR

Email- dsofood-ALW-rj@nic.in Phone No.-0144-2344553
क्रमांक-307 दिनांक-20/05/2026

Notice Inviting Bid

e-Bids for selection of Handling and Transportation of Food grains Under PDS from FCI Depots in District ALWAR are invited from interested bidders up to **Date 10/06/2026 Time 12:00 pm** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state, The approximate value of the procurement is **5.00 crore** for One year.

NIB No- FCC2627A0037
UBN No-FCC2627SLOB00036
DIPR/C/9038/2026

District Supply Officer
ALWAR

The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited
Door No. 294/1D, 100 feet Road (Tadigadapa to Enikepadu Road), Kanuru, Vijayawada-521137. Andhra Pradesh. India
Tel: +91-866-2429999 Fax: +91-866-2429977 Email: contracts-ho@apmdc.in

Tender Notice

Ref: APMDC/P&C/CAMC IT Hardware/SCM/2026-27/1, Date: 26.05.2026.
APMDC invites E-tender from reputed Agencies for "Selection of Provision of Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) for the Existing IT Hardware Infrastructure & Devices at APMDC Suliyari Coal Project, Madhya Pradesh". For more information on the eligibility criteria, tender fees, timelines and other details, please visit APMDC website **(www.apmdc.ap.gov.in)**. The Tender document is available for downloading from APMDC website **from 26.05.2026 and the last date for submission of bid is 15.06.2026**.

Place: Vijayawada
Date : 26.05.2026
DIPR 5108PP/CL ,DT.25-05-2026

Sd./- Managing Director
The A. P. Mineral Development Corporation Limited

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Ajmer
Qtr. No. II/2, PHED Colony, Vaishali Nagar, near RIICO Watch Factory,
Ph. No. 0145-2640265, *email: acepajmer@gmail.com acepajm.phed@rajasthan.gov.in*

S.No. F()ACE/Proj/Aj/AR-JJM /2026-27/1057 Date: 20.05.2026

CORRIGENDUM NO.5

NIB Code:- PHE2526A6441 & UBN No. PHE2526WLOB13856)

In continuation to this office NIT No.03/2025-26 issued vide letter no. 2436-2491 dated 11.02.2026. The following amendment are hereby notified:-

S.N.	Description	As per original NIT & Corrigendum 4	As per this corrigendum
1	Date & time for downloading of tender document	13.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to 21.05.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to 11.06.2026 up to 6:00 PM
2	Date & time for online submission of tender	From 24.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to up to 21.05.2026 at 6:00 PM	Up to 11.06.2026 at 06:00 PM
3	Date & time of physical submission of tender fee, RISL charges and EMD	22.05.2026 at 01:00 PM	Up to 12.06.2026 at 01:00 PM
4	Date & time of opening of technical bid	22.05.2026 at 03:00 PM	Up to 12.06.2026 at 03:00 PM

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as mentioned in tender document.

(Krishan Kumar Agarwal)
Additional Chief Engineer
(Project) PHED, Ajmer

DIPR/C/9057/2026

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 21-05-2026 to 24-05-2026
Ground Water Department
Tender ID: 2026_GWD_851963_1 * District Officer * Supply and commissioning of rig units for Wayanad District u * Closing Date: 19-Jun-2026 * PAC: Rs22500000
Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.
Ro.No:21-24/May/2026/PRD/(N)6

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Tender Call Notice No. File No.: IDCO/HO-P&C/A-100869/04/2026/V-1 14331, Dated : 20.05.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

Name of the Work : SITC of 33 kV UG Cable (1C x 630 Sqmm XLPE) for Connectivity of 33/11 kV, 2 x 8 MVA Primary Substation (PSS) from 33 kV Source and SITC of 11 kV UG Cable (3Cx 400 Sqmm XLPE) for Distribution of Load at Ramdaspur Industrial Estate under Electrical Section, Godisahi, Cuttack.

Estimated Cost put to tender : Rs.1,28,25,992.00

Period of completion : 4(Four) Calendar Months

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Bhubaneswar	Bid Identification No. P&C/EST/E-06/2026-27	17.00 hours of dt. 26.05.2026	17.00 hours of dt.10.06.2026

Further details can be seen from the e- Procurement Portal **www.Tendersodisha.gov.in** and Corrigendum if any will be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal as well as in **IDCO website**.

4001/109/2627

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0034

JAC DELHI-2026

Admission Notice for B.Tech. & B.Arch. Programmes 2026-2027

ONLINE applications are invited for admission to B.Tech. and B.Arch. programmes offered by the following Universities/Institutes established by the Government of NCT of Delhi:

- **Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT), www.nsut.ac.in**
- **Delhi Technological University (DTU), www.dtu.ac.in**
- **Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW), www.igdtuw.ac.in**
- **Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-D), www.iiitd.ac.in**
- **Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU), www.dseu.ac.in**

For detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, reservation policy, admission procedure, counselling schedule, application process. seat matrix, and other admission-related guidelines, candidates are advised to visit: **jacdelhi.admissions.nic.in**

ONLINE Application Process

- Candidates must register ONLINE through the JAC Delhi Admission Portal as per the instructions given in the Admission Brochure available on the portal.
- A non-refundable registration fee of Rs. 1500/- is to be paid ONLINE only through Credit Card / Debit Card / Net Banking / UPI / or any other online payment mode available on the portal.
- Candidates are advised to regularly visit the JAC Delhi website for updates and important announcements regarding the admission process.

Important Dates

1.	Commencement of Online Registration and Choice Filling.	**May 28, 2026 (Thursday)** from 10:00 AM
2.	Last Date and time for Online Registration (Registration Form Filling, Registration Fee Payment and Choice filling).	**June 09, 2026 (Tuesday)** Till 11:30 PM

HELP DESK : helpdesk.jacdelhi2026@nsut.ac.in
Note :- Application received without prescribed fee shall not be considered / summarily rejected.

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0069/26-27 **Chairperson, JAC Delhi-2026**

VATICAN CITY

Pope makes historic apology for Vatican's role in justifying slavery

REUTERS

Pope Leo XIV on Monday issued an unprecedented apology for the Vatican's role in justifying slavery and said the delay in condemning it was "a wound in Christian memory". Past Popes have apologised for Christians' involvement in the slave trade. But Leo's words went further by mentioning the Church's role in legitimising slavery. AFP

ISTANBUL

Jailed Kurdish leader says 'no time to lose' for Turkiye peace process

AFP

Jailed PKK founder Abdullah Ocalan warned against any delay in taking legal steps to flesh out the peace process with Ankara, in a message on Monday. Mr. Ocalan said prolonging the peace process would only "generate risk". Last year, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) formally renounced its armed struggle after four decades. AFP

CAIRO

Israeli attack kills two, including six-year-old girl, in Gaza: medics

AP

An Israeli airstrike on a tent encampment of displaced families in the southern Gaza Strip on Monday killed two people including a six-year-old girl and wounded 17 people, Palestinian health officials said. The attack was carried out by two helicopters. The Israeli Army said it had struck militants but provided no information. REUTERS

ISLAMABAD

Death toll climbs to more than 30 in Pakistan train bombing: officials

REUTERS

The death toll in the suicide bombing of a train carrying security personnel in the Pakistani province of Balochistan the day before rose to more than 30, officials said on Monday. The separatist group Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed the car bomb attack in the provincial capital Quetta. REUTERS

Iran says progress on several issues, but agreement with U.S. not yet close

Tehran talks down hopes of imminent peace deal with U.S.; Iran official says 'conclusion reached on a large portion of the issues under discussion'; Iranian state media reports officials on a visit to Qatar as part of 'diplomatic process' to end war

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran warned on Monday that, while some progress had been made, it was not yet close to striking a deal with the United States to end the war in West Asia, after a weekend of mixed messages from Washington and Tehran.

World oil prices tumbled on renewed optimism about an agreement, after top U.S. diplomat Marco Rubio suggested a deal could be reached within the day but a top Iranian official responded: "No one can make such a claim."

Beneath the calm: Vessels sailing through the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman, on Monday. REUTERS

"We thought we might have some news last night, maybe today," U.S. Secretary of State Rubio told reporters during a visit to New Delhi, referring to hopes for a deal.

But in Tehran, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei poured cold water on hopes for a quick final settlement.

"It is correct to say that we have reached a conclusion on a large portion of the issues under discussion," he told a weekly news briefing. "But to say that this means the signing of an agreement is imminent – no one can make such a claim."

Service fees in Hormuz

Mr. Baqaei stressed that Iran would continue to manage maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz by charging service fees. "The services that are provided – navigational services in addition to the measures necessary to protect the environment of the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman – require the collection of certain fees," he said.

Earlier, U.S. President Donald Trump had said that he had told his negotiators "not to rush into a deal, in that time is on our side", and warned that the U.S. naval blockade would remain in place until a deal was reached.

Meanwhile, Iran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf arrived in Qatar on Monday, state media reported. A delegation headed by "Mr. Ghalibaf, travelled to Doha today. This trip comes as part of the diplomatic process", said the official IRNA news agency, adding that talks will be held to end the war.

Xi praises peace efforts, hails 'unbreakable' China-Pak. ties

Reuters
BEIJING

President Xi Jinping hailed China's "unbreakable" friendship with Pakistan on Monday as he met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing, seeking to deepen their "all-weather" partnership. Mr. Xi welcomed the Pakistani leader as an "old friend" and said the two countries had "understood, trusted and supported each other" over decades.

Pakistan is among an exclusive group of countries which China regards as an "all-weather strategic partner", spanning close economic, trade and security cooperation. But Islamist militant attacks on Chinese nationals and projects in southwest Pakistan where China has big infrastructure investments have irked Beijing.

Bilateral push: Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Monday. REUTERS

"No matter how the international situation changes, China always prioritises the development of its ties with Pakistan in its neighbourhood diplomacy," Mr. Xi said.

Mr. Sharif, in turn, called China and Pakistan two "iron brother" countries with a relationship that is "next to none". Mr. Sharif was accompanied by Pakistan's Army chief, Asim Munir, who was recently in Tehran for meetings with Iran's leadership.

"I know that you have just returned from Iran and made positive efforts for the current peace. We appreciate the constructive role played by Pakistan," Mr. Xi said.

Netanyahu orders military to intensify offensive in Lebanon

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday he had ordered the military to intensify its offensive in Lebanon in an effort to "crush" Hezbollah, accusing the group of targeting Israeli forces with drone attacks.

"I have ordered an even greater acceleration of our operations," Mr. Netanyahu said on Telegram.

"It is true that they are attacking us with drones, but we have teams working on countermeasures and we will solve this issue... We will intensify our blows, increase our firepower, and we will crush them."

These comments were made despite a U.S.-brokered ceasefire and follow calls by far-right Ministers Itamar Ben Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich to escalate military operations, with Mr. Smotrich advocating "strikes on capital Beirut".

A total of 24 Israelis have been killed since hostilities began on March 2. Lebanon's Health Ministry has put the overall death toll in the war at 3,123.

Eight killed after Russia and Ukraine exchange missile and drone attacks

Reuters
MOSCOW/KYIV

At least eight people have been killed in missile and drone attacks on Russian and Ukrainian territory in the past 24 hours, local authorities on both sides said on Monday, with damage reported to energy infrastructure in Russia's Belgorod region.

The barrage came days after Russia accused Kyiv of striking a vocational school in the Russian-occupied Lugansk region, killing 21 people. Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his military to retaliate for that attack. Ukraine's military denied the accusations and said it had struck an elite drone command unit in the area.

In the aftermath: A worker takes part in repair work on a damaged residential building following Russian strikes in Kyiv on Monday. AFP

Since then, four people, including two teenagers, have been killed in the Russian-controlled Ukrainian town of Horlivka, its Mayor Ivan Prikhodko said on Monday, blaming Ukrainian armed aggression.

In Russia's Belgorod region, one man was killed and another injured in a missile and drone attack that also cut power and water supplies, local authorities said on Telegram.

In Ukraine, two people were killed and 16 wounded in Russian shelling, missile and drone attacks in Kherson over the past 24 hours, regional Governor Oleksandr Prokudin said.

In another attack near Kharkiv, Ukraine's second biggest city, one person was killed and two were injured. The regional Governor said that according to preliminary information, Russia carried out a missile attack on the town of Derhachi, just outside the city.

Iran says Supreme Leader suffered only 'superficial' wounds

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

The injuries suffered by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei in U.S.-Israeli strikes in late February were only "superficial", an Iranian Health Ministry official said on Monday. The 56-year-old has not appeared publicly since he was named as Iran's new leader on March 8, issuing only written statements, fuelling speculation about his health.

In March, U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said Mr. Mojtaba was "believed to be alive, wounded and disfigured".

On Monday, Health Ministry spokesman Hossein Kermanpour described the day Mr. Mojtaba was wounded. He said Mr. Mojtaba arrived at a hospital on February 28 and "entered the operating room along with several other wounded individuals."

"Apart from superficial injuries to the face, head and legs, which caused neither amputation nor any particular medical problem, nothing major had happened," Mr. Kermanpour said.

Sport

It would be 'supercool' to have the World title decider in India, reckons Gukesh

CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

He is the World champion alright, but has copped a lot of criticism in the recent past over his performances after ascending the throne. Yet, D. Gukesh is calm personified as he handles the flak he faces over his patchy form.

Here in the Norwegian capital to play the Norway Chess tournament, the Indian, who will turn 20 on May 29, handled questions about the dip in his form over the past 18 months or so with quiet assurance.

"I have not been performing well in the last one-and-a-half years and I think I would say that my performances have been way below expectations. They (critics) have the right to say what they feel and I have the right to do my best," Gukesh said ahead of the prestigious event.

No worries: Gukesh is not overtly concerned about the chatter surrounding his patchy form in the recent past. FLICKR/NORWAY CHESS

He said he would be happy to play the World Championship match anywhere, but admitted that it would be special if it was to be held in India, even though the pressure of defending the title at home would be immense.

"Anywhere would be nice... In India there's always a lot of pressure. The World Championships will attract a lot of attention. If it's in India it will be supercool and I will be very happy," he added.

Asked if he would like to see a repeat of the incident where Magnus Carlsen banged the table after a loss to him in the tournament last year, Gukesh said chess players generally don't show a lot of emotions but when it did happen, a lot of people got attracted to chess."

(The writer is in Oslo at the invitation of Norway Chess).

Magnus Carlsen — understanding the aura of a Norwegian sporting superstar

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

There's something about Magnus Carlsen. Like him or hate him, the Norwegian chess superstar is hard to ignore.

He's probably the greatest sports icon in a nation where football rules the popularity charts and is most spoken about with the FIFA World Cup on the horizon.

The 35-year-old is the player to beat every time he sits at the board – irrespective of the format.

It's no different at Norway Chess with people – right from the tournament director Kjell Madland to the denizens – rooting for Carlsen in his home event.

"Of course, it's a huge thing that Norway has a player like Magnus," said Madland, adding "It's not easy to understand his impact. And of course, replacing him is not going to be easy."

Carlsen.
FLICKR/NORWAY CHESS

> It's not easy to understand his impact. And of course, replacing him is not going to be easy
>
> – **KJELL MADLAND,** tournament director

Meanwhile, a young man, who was helping his little son move giant chess pieces on an oversized board at Deichman Bjørvika where the prestigious event is being held, said Carlsen's exploits over the years have been phenomenal and felt his fame had probably reduced because he made winning a habit.

"But years ago, when he started winning world titles for the first time, Carlsen was probably even more popular because it was all new," he said.

Staff at the Scandic hotel here said it was hard to think the local hero could be beaten.

"You cannot beat him here. That's unthinkable," said Gustav Nerland, receptionist at the hotel and a huge fan of the World No. 1.

His colleague Eiler Kongsrud nodded in agreement and said "Magnus is a great champion."

There is something about Carlsen which continues to befuddle his opponents and ensures his long-running supremacy.

CHALLENGING

Pacers are forced to work hard, don't get extra cushion: Patidar

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

RCB skipper Rajat Patidar stayed clear of commenting on the flat pitches on offer in the IPL, but provided a leaning shoulder to the bowlers. "It's very challenging for the bowlers. The faster bowlers are forced to work very hard, don't get much extra cushion. Even if there is a little mistake, it goes straight for six," he said.

GAME-CHANGER

'It's not easy for a spinner in this format... Rashid has been top class'

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

GT assistant coach Vijay Dahiya credited Rashid Khan's improvement to his hunger to contribute to the team. "It's not easy for a spinner in this format. He has gone through a couple of surgeries. He's been top class in the nets and is chatting with batters trying to understand how his game works and what he is lacking."

RESILIENT

Skipper Rahane proud of the way KKR never stopped fighting

R.V. MOORTHY

I'm proud of the way we came back. The first six games were tough, and although we played good cricket in phases, we failed to capitalise on key moments. Those fine margins made the difference. What stood out was the character and resilience in the group — Ajinkya Rahane, KKR captain.

FINE MARGINS

Capitals undone by inconsistency and missed moments: Badani

R.V. MOORTHY

There were many games where the match could've gone either way, but we failed to seize those moments. The GT game that we lost by one run is an example. Even defending 264 against PBKS, you'd back yourself to win. The difference between qualifying and missing out comes down to small margins — Hemang Badani, DC coach.

A spot in the final up for grabs, RCB runs into well-drilled GT

Patidar & Co have the edge in Qualifier 1 courtesy an all-round side, while Gill's team boasts of an in-form bowling pack

IPL-19

Anish Pathiyil
DHARAMSHALA

There was practically nothing to separate Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans at the end of the IPL 2026 league stage.

Both sides accumulated nine wins each and were separated by a narrow Net Run Rate margin of 0.088. They even had a 1-1 head-to-head record. But, when they meet at the HPCA Stadium here for their Qualifier 1 contest on Tuesday, the winner will take a large stride towards securing a second IPL title.

Defending champion RCB appears to be the favourite for the crown despite bumps along the road. The side's success is in large part due to the performances of its two most senior cricketers.

Virat Kohli (557) continues to churn out runs at the top of the order, this time with a personal-best strike rate of 163.82. Medium-pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has turned the clock back. He has already bagged 24 wickets at a praiseworthy economy rate of 8.07. With short boundaries and barely any help on offer for the spinners, RCB might be tempted to play Jacob Duffy considering Phil Salt is doubtful for the match.

GT has been a top-heavy side and this season is no different. Openers Shubman Gill (616) and Sai Sudharsan (638) are the bedrock on which the batting block has been built, with both of them scoring over 600 runs. The real difference-maker in the Titans ranks has been South African pacer Kagiso Rabada, whose fiery spells have given him 24 wickets.

The conditions at the scenic venue often render contests as a direct confrontation of batting might but with two quality bowling line-ups on display, it could well be the execution with the ball that eventually decides the winner.

Gill. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Today's match

QUALIFIER 1

RCB vs GUJARAT TITANS

Dharamshala, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

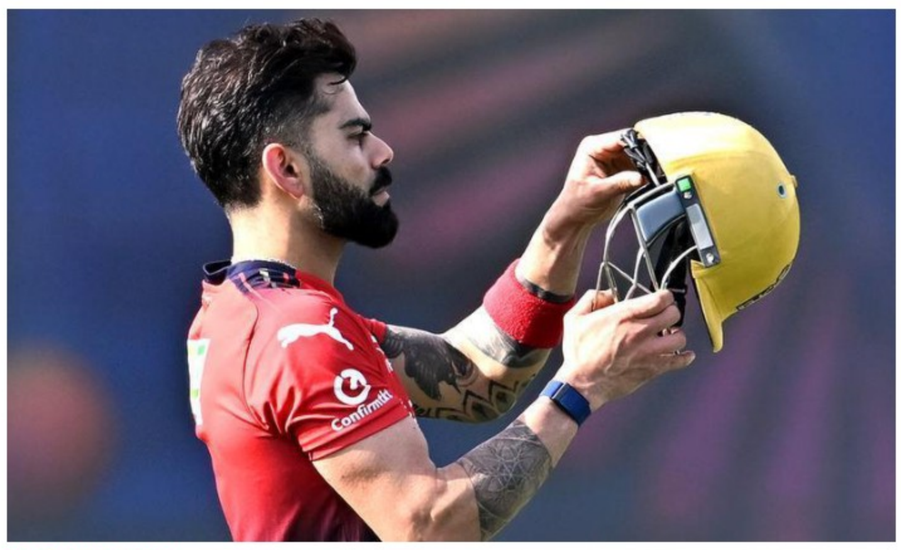
Played: 8

RCB 4 | GT 4

PREVIOUS MEETING

GT won by four wickets, 2026

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR



Moving up a gear: Kohli has operated at a personal-best strike rate of 163.82. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Influencers

The players who have powered their teams' campaigns:

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Batters	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	Orange Cap Rank
Kohli	14	557	105	163.82	1/4	9
Padikkal	13	433	61	171.82	0/3	17
Bowlers	**Inns**	**Wkts**	**BB**	**Econ**	**4W**	**Purple Cap Rank**
Bhuvneshwar	14	24	4/23	8.07	1	1
Rasikh	10	14	4/24	9.87	1	14

GUJARAT TITANS

Batters	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	Orange Cap Rank
Sai Sudharsan	14	638	100	157.92	1/7	1
Gill	13	616	86	161.67	0/6	2
Bowlers	**Inns**	**Wkts**	**BB**	**Econ**	**4W**	**Purple Cap Rank**
Rabada	14	24	3/25	9.18	0	2
Rashid	14	19	4/33	8.71	1	5

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Batters	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	Orange Cap Rank
Klaasen	14	606	69	159.47	0/6	3
Kishan	14	569	91	178.36	0/6	6
Bowlers	**Inns**	**Wkts**	**BB**	**Econ**	**4W**	**Purple Cap Rank**
Malinga	14	19	4/32	9.27	1	6
Sakib	10	15	4/24	9.07	1	11

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Batters	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	Orange Cap Rank
Sooryavanshi	14	583	103	232.27	1/3	5
Jurel	14	458	81*	149.67	0/5	15
Bowlers	**Inns**	**Wkts**	**BB**	**Econ**	**4W**	**Purple Cap Rank**
Archer	14	21	3/17	8.76	0	3
Brijesh	11	13	2/18	9.65	0	20

Source: IPLT20.com

COMPILED BY SRINIVAS SRIRAM

'The game is going to be a battle'

Anish Pathiyil
DHARAMSHALA

Gujarat Titans assistant coach Vijay Dahiya said Qualifier 1 will see a battle between two equal teams and dismissed the notion that Royal Challengers Bengaluru will have an advantage, having played a league-stage contest at the HPCA Stadium here.

"There are many players across both teams who have played at this venue before and they will be aware of the conditions here. Both teams play as a unit, that is what stands out. The game is going to be a battle. Since there is a lot at stake, there is going to be pressure on both," Dahiya said.

The coach added that the two sides have found themselves at the top end of the IPL 2026 table due to the consistency in their bowling. "You see teams putting runs on the board. But in the end, you need a solid bowling unit. You hardly see any changes in both the teams, and that is due to the bowlers' self-belief and the faith put in by the captain and the management," he said.

GT has picked the most PowerPlay wickets in the competition this year (38), thanks to some accurate bowling from Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj. Dahiya said the two have formed a solid partnership on and off the pitch.

"They understand the game very well and what they need to do for the partner at the other end. They are different characters who come from different international environments and a lot of credit needs to be given to Ashish Nehra, the way he handles both of them," the coach opined.

Swiatek, Rybakina advance; Wawrinka bids farewell

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Four-time French Open champion Iga Swiatek and second seed Elena Rybakina eased into the second round with comfortable wins at a sweltering Roland Garros on Monday, as Stan Wawrinka bade an emotional farewell.

Swiatek, playing at a Grand Slam event for the first time since linking up with Rafael Nadal's former coach Francisco Roig, made short work of seeing off Australian teenager Emerson Jones 6-1, 6-2 in just 60 minutes.

The Pole is looking to regain the trophy she won at Roland Garros in three successive years from 2022-24 before losing to Aryna Sabalenka in the semifinals 12 months ago.

Australian Open champion Rybakina also wasted little time in swatting aside Slovenian Veronika Erjavec 6-2, 6-2 on Court Philippe Chatrier. Former champion Wawrinka's final Roland Garros ended in disappointment as the 41-year-old was beaten 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 by Dutch lucky loser Jesper de Jong. Wawrinka, who beat Novak Djokovic in the 2015 final, is retiring at the end of the season.

After the match, Wawrinka was presented with a glass case containing a section of a clay court and two video tributes to his career were displayed on big screens around the stadium – the latter featuring messages from former champions Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Djokovic.

Tuesday's Picks

MEN

1-Sinner vs. Tabur
4-Auger-Aliassime vs. Altmaier
6-Medvedev vs. Walton
9-Bublik vs. Struff
14-Darderi vs. Ofner
16-Vacherot vs. Faurel

WOMEN

1-Sabalenka vs. Maneiro
4-Gauff vs. Townsend
5-Pegula vs. Birrell
9-Mboko vs. Bartunkova
12-Noskova vs. Sakkari
18-Osaka vs. Siegemund

Djokovic through

Meanwhile on Sunday, Novak Djokovic came from a set down to get the better of Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard 5-7, 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 and book his spot in the second round.

The 24-time Major champion is seeking to win a fourth Roland Garros crown, which would send him beyond Margaret Court as the player with the most Grand Slam titles in the history of the sport.

THE RESULTS

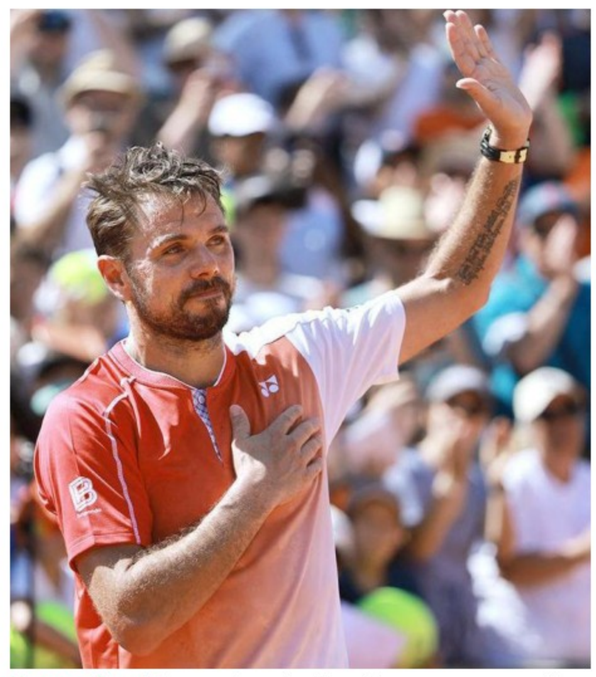
First round: Men:
22-Rinderknech (Fra) bt Rodionov (Aut) 7-6(5), 6-2, 6-3; 19-Tiafoe (USA) bt Spizzirri (USA) 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-3; 31-Nakashima (USA) bt Agut (Esp) 6-2, 7-5, 6-2; 8-de Minaur (Aus) bt Samuel (GBr) 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; 27-Jodar (Esp) bt Kovacevic (USA) 6-1, 6-0, 6-4; Carreno Busta (Esp) bt 12-Lehecka (Cze) 6-3, 7-6(3), 6-3; de Jong (Ned) bt Wawrinka (Sui) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; 32-Humbert (Fra) bt Mannarino (Fra) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.
Borges (Por) bt 23-Etcheverry (Arg) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 28-Fonseca (Bra) bt Pavlovic (Fra) 7-6(6), 6-4, 6-2; 3-Djokovic (Srb) bt Perricard (Fra) 5-7, 7-5, 6-1, 6-4; Basavareddy (USA) bt 7-Fritz (USA) 7-6(5), 7-6(5), 6-7(9), 6-1.

Women: Bandecchi (Sui) bt 31-Bucsa (Esp) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; 28-Potapova (Aut) bt Joint (Aus) 6-1, 6-2; 23-Mertens (Bel) bt Maria (Ger) 7-5, 6-0; 7-Svitolina (Ukr) bt Bondar (Hun) 3-6, 6-1, 7-6(3); 3-Swiatek (Pol) bt Jones (Aus) 6-1, 6-2; Teichmann (Sui) bt 20-Samsonova (Rus) 6-4, 6-4; 13-Paolini (Ita) bt Yastremska (Ukr) 7-5, 6-3; 2-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Erjavec (Slo) 6-2, 6-2; 6-Anisimova (USA) bt Rajaonah (Fra) 6-3, 6-1.
Snigur (Ukr) bt 21-Tauson (Den) 3-6, 7-5, 6-2; 18-Cirstea (Rou) bt Efremova (Fra) 6-3, 6-1.

Fallen seeds:

Men: 7-Fritz, 12-Lehecka, 23-Etcheverry.

Women: 20-Samsonova, 21-Tauson, 31-Bucsa.



Heart and soul: Former champion Wawrinka was overcome with emotion after receiving a warm farewell on Monday. REUTERS

Salt is fit, but we are yet to decide our combination: Patidar

Anish Pathiyil
DHARAMSHALA

Royal Challengers Bengaluru skipper Rajat Patidar said that opening batter Phil Salt was close to returning to action but added that the call on whether he will play IPL 2026 Qualifier 1 against Gujarat Titans was yet to be taken.

The Englishman had left for the UK after suffering a finger injury in the game against Delhi Capitals on April 18. Salt was set to rejoin the squad ahead of the playoffs but he was not present during practice on the eve of the game. "Salt is fit. He is under observation. He has been participating in a few drills but we haven't decided on our playing XI yet. We will look at the pitch and decide," Patidar said on Monday. Jacob Bethell deputised for his compatriot before he was ruled out due to a left ring-finger injury. Venkatesh Iyer opened the batting in Bethell's absence and contributed a rapid 44 against Sunrisers Hyderabad. He had also filled in for Patidar in the middle-order during the contest against Punjab Kings. Patidar hailed Venkatesh's versatility with the bat, which has allowed the team to slot him in at any spot.

"I've known Venky since childhood. He has a great attitude and is ready to bat anywhere. He was a main player at Kolkata Knight Riders but when he came here, he didn't get a lot of chances in the beginning. He accepted that and ensured he was prepared when the chance came to cash in," the captain said.

Decoding the strengths and shortcomings of the Final Four

S. Shrivathsan

Royal Challengers Bengaluru

Strengths: The defending champion has an all-round squad packed with match-winners. Virat Kohli's returns, especially in the absence of Phil Salt, reflect that he is as hungry as ever to taste success. The presence of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood and Krunal Pandya – all top-quality bowlers who have been there and done that – is a boon.

Weaknesses: Four of RCB's five defeats came away from home, a stark contrast to the spotless run it had in IPL 2025. The Rajat Patidar-led outfit has work to do in a phase where it might end up playing at three venues in six days. Despite scoring a half-century on his comeback – against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Friday – the captain has not reached his maximum potential yet.

Gujarat Titans

Strengths: In a format where runs are the dominant currency, the 2022 title-winner boasts of a bankable top three (skipper Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler) that is well-equipped to shine across conditions. The pace battery, led by Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada, is equally potent and rich in depth.

Weaknesses: The middle-order batters, barring Washington Sundar, have not been up to the mark – none except the India all-rounder have even crossed the 100-run hurdle for the season. The Gujarat side is yet to successfully chase down 200 or more this campaign, so how prepared it is for a possible scenario remains to be seen.

Sunrisers Hyderabad

Strengths: SRH has the wherewithal to keep the scoreboard ticking despite setbacks, with Heinrich Klaasen and Ishan Kishan being the conductors of the orchestra. Having infused young blood into the bowling attack – Sakib Hussain, Praful Hinge and Shivang Kumar among others – the Hyderabad outfit has the variety to stifle rival batters.

Weaknesses: While the newcomers have delivered the goods thus far, the bowling unit is short on experience. Apart from skipper Pat Cummins, no bowler in the probable playing XII has consistently experienced the rigours of knockout cricket.

Rajasthan Royals

Strengths: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi! The 15-year-old pocket dynamite has shown maturity beyond his age at a time when his opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal has not been at his best.

Speedster Jofra Archer, the team's strike bowler, is back in his element after a breathtaking spell in the do-or-die fixture against Mumbai Indians.

Weaknesses: The middle-order batters have rarely fired in unison, and it could partly be down to the shuffling of personnel during the first round. With lead tweaker Ravindra Jadeja only recently returning to the field and the other pedigreed slow bowler, Ravi Bishnoi, out of action since the beginning of the month, the spin department is still a concern.

INBRIEF

Como seals its maiden CL spot; Milan, Juve miss out

Como qualified for the Champions League for the first time in its history on Sunday, the lakeside club being joined by Roma in the top four as giants AC Milan and Juventus missed out on an eventful final day marred by fan violence.

The results: Serie A: Cremonese 1 (Bonazzoli 55-pen) lost to Como 4 (Rodriguez 36, Douvikas 51, Da Cunha 74-pen, 81); Lecce 1 (Banda 7) bt Genoa 0; AC Milan 1 (Saelemaekers 2) lost to Cagliari 2 (Borrelli 20, Rodriguez 57); Napoli 1 (Hojlund 24) bt Udinese 0; Parma 1 (Pellegrino 80) bt Sassuolo 0; Torino 2 (Casadei 59, Adams 84) drew with Juventus 2 (Vlahovic 24, 54); Verona 0 lost to Roma 2 (Malen 57, El Shaarawy 90+4). **LaLiga:** Villarreal 5 (Parejo 30-pen, Perez 34, 54, Mikautadze 40, Gueye 45) bt Atletico Madrid 1 (Pubill 43).

Coach Conte says goodbye to Napoli after two years

Antonio Conte bid goodbye to Napoli after two years at the helm as he ended his stint with a 1-0 Serie A win over Udinese on Sunday. "It's been an honour, really special to coach Napoli... it's been two great seasons, an exceptional experience," Conte said.

Messi subbed off in MLS game after an injury scare

Lionel Messi was at the centre of an injury scare just weeks before the start of the FIFA World Cup on Sunday after abruptly exiting Inter Miami's Major League Soccer clash against Philadelphia Union. He was substituted after clutching the back of his left leg and requesting to come off.

Tamil Nadu leg-spinner Ashwin hangs up his boots

Tamil Nadu leg-spinner M. Ashwin announced his retirement from domestic and IPL cricket through Instagram on Monday. The 35-year-old featured in 117 T20 matches, claiming 115 wickets at an economy rate of 7.27. Ashwin, who turned out for five IPL franchises since making his debut in 2016, picked up 35 wickets from 44 matches at an economy of 8.01.

LIVE TELECAST

Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 2.30 p.m.; **Evening session**, Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 & LIV, 12 a.m. (Wednesday)
IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Krish notches up a double; Shiv and Ayansh excel

Championship leaders: Shiv, Ayansh, Rivaan and Krish are ahead in their respective categories.

Sports Bureau

Mumbai's Krish Gupta (Leapfrog Racing) notched up a brilliant double, winning the Sprint and Feature races in the Senior Max class, to move to the top of the leaderboard at the conclusion of the second round of the Meco Meritus Cup karting championship at the Meco Kartopia, Bengaluru, on Sunday.

Aided by two podium finishes, including a victory, Hyderabad's Shiv Tummala (Peregrine Racing) and MSPORT's Ayansh Patil of Kolhapur grabbed the top spots in the Mini Max and Micro Max classes respectively.

In the premier OKJ Junior class, Chennai's Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT) yet again dominated the point-scoring sessions, the Super Heat and Final Race, winning both comfortably.

Antonelli laps up Canadian GP for his fourth straight victory of the season

The teenaged Mercedes driver extends his lead to 43 points over teammate Russell, who retires early with a power failure; Ferrari's Hamilton, who has won the event seven times, secures his 10th podium in Montreal and 204th overall after holding off Red Bull's Verstappen

FORMULA ONE

Agence France-Presse
MONTREAL

Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli continued his spectacular early-season romp on Sunday when he claimed his fourth straight win for Mercedes to extend his lead in the World Championship to 43 points in a thrilling Canadian Grand Prix.

His win made him the first driver in F1 history to secure his first four wins in succession thanks, in part, to the retirement of teammate George Russell with a power failure after the pair had battled through the first half of the race.

The 19-year-old Italian came home 10.768 seconds clear of Ferrari's seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton.

"It was a really fun battle with George," said Antonelli.

"We were pretty much on the limit. It was not easy today (Sunday).

"It was a shame for George to have the failure because it would have been a very cool battle, but I'll take it."

Hamilton secured his 10th Canadian podium and the 204th of his career after resisting four-time champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull, who claimed his first podium of the season.

Hamilton, who took his maiden victory in Montreal in 2007 and shares the record of seven wins here with Michael Schumacher, was delighted and hugged Antonelli who succeeded him at Mercedes.

"Finally, we found our sweet spot and had a good weekend. It's amazing to be back up here and I got to have a battle with Max, which was great. I am so happy, I love this track," said Hamilton.

Charles Leclerc came home fourth for Ferrari ahead of Isack Hadjar in the second Red Bull, Franco Colapinto of Alpine and Racing Bulls' Liam Lawson.

Pierre Gasly was eighth for Alpine ahead of Williams' Carlos Sainz and Oliver Bearman of Haas.

The results:
1. Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes) 1:28:15.758s; 2. Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari) +10.768s; 3. Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing) +11.276; 4. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) +44.151.
+1 lap: 5. Isack Hadjar (Red Bull Racing), 6. Franco Colapinto (Alpine), 7. Liam Lawson (Racing Bulls), 8. Pierre Gasly (Alpine), 9. Carlos Sainz Jr. (Williams), 10. Oliver Bearman (Haas).
+2 laps: 11. Oscar Piastri (McLaren), 12. Nico Hulkenberg (Audi), 13. Gabriel Bortoleto (Audi), 14. Esteban Ocon (Haas).
+4 laps: 15. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin), 16. Valtteri Bottas (Cadillac).
DNF: 17. Sergio Perez (Cadillac), 18. Lando Norris (McLaren), 19. George Russell (Mercedes), 20. Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin), 21. Alexander Albon (Williams).
DNS: Arvid Linblad (Racing Bulls).
Standings (top five): Drivers: 1. Antonelli 131 points, 2. Russell 88, 3. Leclerc 75, 4. Hamilton 72, 5. Norris 58.
Constructors: 1. Mercedes 219, 2. Ferrari 147, 3. McLaren 106, 4. Red Bull Racing 57, 5. Alpine 35.

Lights to flag

THE JOURNEY IN NUMBERS AFTER THE 68-LAP RACE AT MONTREAL

1 Antonelli is the first driver to register his first four career wins in successive races

1 The Italian (4) has more victories than Russell (3) since they became teammates at Mercedes in 2025

2 Hamilton records his first top two with Ferrari, his first second-place finish after the 2024 Las Vegas GP

4 Antonelli joins Alonso, Hamilton and Verstappen as the only active drivers to win at least four races

5 Ferrari's Leclerc has always finished in the top five in Canada

6 Colapinto produces his best-ever result for the second race weekend in a row

8 Antonelli has equalled Verstappen's record for most podium finishes by a teenager

12 Mercedes goes past Ferrari for most wins at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve

16 The number of drivers who have secured four successive wins in F1 after Antonelli's latest triumph. 15 of them have gone on to win the drivers' championship

43 Antonelli's lead over Russell at the top. Only twice has a driver overturned a bigger deficit to clinch the title (46 - Verstappen vs. Leclerc, 2022; 44 - Vettel vs. Alonso, 2012)

Compiled by ANIRUDH VELAMURI

Samardeep shocks Toor, earns CWG qualification; Praveen, Yashas and Santhosh, too, make it

ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi
RANCHI

Samardeep upset his idol Toor. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Close win: Yashas, left, pipped Santhosh in a keenly-contested 400m hurdles final. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Dominant: Praveen recorded 17.08m to ensure victory over Aboobacker (16.63). RITU RAJ KONWAR

Shot putter Samardeep Singh Gill, triple jumper Praveen Chithravel and hurdlers P. Yashas and T. Santhosh Kumar earned Commonwealth Games qualification on the concluding day of the Federation athletics meet at the Birsa Munda Stadium (Morabadi) here on Monday.

At his lucky venue where he had landed gold at the National Open and South Asian meets last year, Samardeep crossed 20m for the first time as he upset his idol Tajinderpal Toor with a throw of 20.46m in his third attempt to win gold. Samardeep went past 20m in his last three attempts while Toor managed 20m-plus throws in his first (20.07m) and last (20.06m) efforts.

"It's all about the mindset. Once I crossed 20m, I felt a lot better," said Samardeep.

National record-holder Praveen overcame a foul in his first attempt to record 17.08m in his third effort and ensure victory over Commonwealth Games medallist Abdulla Aboobacker (16.63m). "I want to go step by step and achieve good results abroad," said Praveen.

Yashas (49.00) and Santhosh (49.06) clinched the top two spots respectively in a keenly-contested 400m hurdles final.

Another National mark owner, Animesh Kujur (20.64) gave a good account of himself but missed the CWG qualifying mark (20.61) by a whisker.

A consistent Shivam Lohakare unleashed the winning throw of 81.71m in his sixth attempt in javelin. Asian Championships silver medallist Sachin Yadav finished fifth (79.07m).

Shivaji Parashuram, who was disqualified for a lane infringement after finishing second in 10,000m, bounced back to take the men's 5,000m title in 14:14.43.

The results (finals): Men: 200m (CWG Q mark 20.61): 1. Animesh Kujur (Odi) 20.64, 2. P.K. Jishnu Prasad (Ker) 20.98, 3. Abhay Singh (Rel) 21.01; **800m (CWG Q mark 1:45.00):** 1. Krishan Kumar (Har) 1:47.68, 2. Prathamesh Deore (Mah) 1:47.97, 3. Satyajeet Pujari (Mah) 1:48.40; **5,000m (CWG Q mark 13:19.64):** 1. Shivaji Parashuram (Kar) 14:14.43, 2. Vinod Singh (MP) 14:15.50, 3. Deepak Bhatt (Utk) 14:17.18; **400m hurdles (CWG Q mark 50.27):** 1. P. Yashas (Kar) 49.00, 2. T. Santhosh Kumar (NCOE Thiruvananthapuram) 49.06, 3. Murad Sirman (Guj) 50.90; **Triple jump (CWG Q mark 16.89m):** 1. Praveen Chithravel (JSW) 17.08m, 2. Abdulla Aboobacker (Air Force) 16.63m, 3. Gailey Venister (TN) 16.37m; **Shot put (CWG Q mark 20.36m):** 1. Samardeep Singh Gill (MP) 20.46m, 2. Tajinderpal Toor (Pun) 20.07m, 3. Karanveer Singh (Pun) 19.38m; **Javelin (CWG Q mark 82.61m):** 1. Shivam Lohakare (Mah) 81.71m, 2. Yashvir Singh (Raj) 80.80m, 3. Rohit Yadav (Rly) 80.40m. **Women: 200m (CWG Q mark 23.06):** 1. Kusum Thakur (HP) 23.94, 2. Tamanna (Har) 24.06, 3. Sudeshna Shivankar (Mah) 24.07; **800m (CWG Q mark 1:57.88):** 1. Pooja (JSW) 2:02.42, 2. Huidrom Bhumeshwori Devi (IOCL) 2:05.56, 3. Thota Sankeertana (IOCL) 2:05.74; **5,000m (CWG Q mark 14:56.60):** 1. Seema (Rel) 16:04.83, 2. Ravina Gayakwad (Mah) 16:46.21, 3. Sonam Parmar (IOCL) 16:48.11. **400m hurdles (CWG Q mark 54.67):** 1. R. Vithya Ramraj (TN) 56.61, 2. Sinchal Kaveramma (NCOE Bengaluru) 57.77, 3. Shravani Sangle (Mah) 59.73; **High jump (CWG Q mark 1.92m):** 1. Khyati Mathur (UP) 1.82m, 2. Manshi (Rly) 1.80m, 3. Abhinaya Shetty (JSW) 1.73m; **Heptathlon (CWG Q mark 6095):** 1. K.A. Anamika (Ker) 5685, 2. Pooja (JSW) 5632, 3. Khushi (Har) 5435.

Surekha excited about guiding a young compound women's team

ARCHERY

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Surekha. K.V.S. GIRI

Jyothi Surekha has been a picture of consistency since picking up the bow and arrow. With 93 medals to her name - including five from the Asian Games - the 29-year-old is now preparing to add to that tally at this year's edition of the quadrennial event in Japan. Surekha emerged on top at the trials held at SAI's National Centre of Excellence in Sonipat, Haryana, while several prominent names, including Atanu Das, Ojas Pravin Deotale and Deepika Kumari, failed to qualify.

The compound archer began her World Cup run with gold in the women's team event in Mexico but a rare off day saw a quarterfinal exit in Shanghai. She admitted that the quick turnaround between Stage 2 of the Archery World Cup and the trials in Sonipat, in addition to challenging conditions made preparation difficult.

"There was a lot of heat. There wasn't much wind initially, but by the round-robin stage, which is very important, it became very windy," she told *The Hindu*.

While pleased with her selection, Surekha is equally excited about guiding a young compound women's team featuring 21-year-old Chikitha Tanipartthi and 17-year-old Prithika Pradeep at the Asian Games.

"I'm just two months away from turning 30," she reiterated, with a laugh.

"Even though I was happy to qualify, I was a little surprised too because some big names missed out, not in compound women, but overall. But what's done is done. The team has been selected, and now we have to work together and make sure things go well for us."

There were barely any celebrations at home in Vijayawada. "Everything was normal at home. Maybe we'll celebrate after winning the Asian Games."

For now, Surekha's immediate focus remains on Stages 3 and 4 of Archery World Cup in Antalya and Madrid, respectively.

SNAPSHOTS

Indian freestyle grapplers on a gold rush

DA NANG (VIETNAM): India continued its impressive run at the U23 Wrestling Asian Championships with its freestyle grapplers claiming a bunch of gold medals here on Monday.

Akshay edged past Kazakhstan's Yelaman Amangeldi 4-2 victory to claim the men's 57kg title, while Vicky pulled off a thrilling 7-5 win against Uzbekistan's Sherzod Poyonov in the 97kg division.

In the women's 53kg final, Muskan controlled the bout against Vietnam's Thi My Linh Nguyen for a comfortable 6-2 win.

Tapsya was even more dominant in the 57kg category, securing her gold with a victory by fall over Kazakhstan's Altyn Shagayeva while leading 4-0.

The results (finals): Men: 57kg: Akshay T. Dhere bt Yelaman Amangeldi (Kaz) 4-2; **97kg:** Vicky bt Sherzod Poyonov (Uzb) 7-5. **Women: 53kg:** Muskan bt Thi My Linh Nguyen (Vie); **57kg:** Tapsya bt Altyn Shagayeva (Kaz) by fall; **62kg:** Bhagyashree H. Fand bt Tynys Dubek (Kgz) 4-0; **65kg:** Pulkit bt Narkhajid Nyamsuren (Mon) 4-1; **72kg:** Odgerel Edene Ochir (Mon) bt Amruta Shashikant Pujari 4-2.

10-wicket win for Swastic Union (2)

BENGALURU: Swastic Union (2) whipped Engrades CC by ten wickets in the KSCA senior women's T20 tournament.

The scores:
City Gymkhana 104/4 in 20 overs lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 105/3 in 12.2 overs; Engrades 83 in 19.5 overs lost to Swastic Union (2) 86 for no loss in 7.3 overs (Rachitha Hatwar 45 n.o.).
Bangalore SC 156/4 in 20 overs (Shelina Laxmidas 62, Tanushree Prakash 3/21) bt Visweswarapuram (2) 75 in 18.2 overs.
Young Lions Club 196/2 in 20 overs (K.S. Pranathi 61) bt Sapphire 121/3 in 20 overs (Meghana Mahi 52).
Vijaya 216/1 in 20 overs (Mansi Satish 86, Shreya Pote 97 n.o.) bt Herons 77/4 in 20 overs.

SAI STC (Madikeri) has it easy

SAI STC (Madikeri) blanked Evergreen Sports Academy (KGF) 13-0 in the Hockey Karnataka under-16 girls' tournament.
In another match, St. Theresa Group of Institution beat Bengaluru Blues HC 1-0.

Blue Star beats PKR

Blue Star FC defeated PKR FC 3-0 in the KSFA 'C' division football league.
The results:
FC Whitefield bt Football Aura 3-1; La Esperanza drew with Silican 1-1; Blue Star bt PKR 3-0.
Undisputed drew with Velocita 1-1.
Samurai Bangalore drew with Kodagu Colts 0-0.
Universal Blues drew with Blues 1-1.